CENTENNIAL
1896 - 1996
Highlights of the Celebration
Special Guests
COLIN POWELL, Chairman, J.C.S.
JOHN R. LEWIS, Congressman
BRIAN HOLLOWAY, NFL
CHARLES E. BRADFORD, Minister
MICHAEL JORDAN, CEO, Westinghouse
SHIRLEY VERRETT, Soprano
MAE C. JEMISON, M.D., Astronaut
WILLIAM H. GRAY III, CEO, UNCF
ADELE C. HALL, Hallmark Cards
JIM LUCAS, Actor, Orator
ROY E. MALCOLM

CENTENNIAL

Highlights of the Celebration

by
Roy E. Malcolm

Oakwood College Publishing Association
Huntsville, Alabama

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FOREWORD

THE CENTENNIAL: In the chronicle of human history, there are dates that speak to us not in words, but in the significance of the events that they commemorate. For example, such dates as July 4, 1776; October 22, 1844; January 1, 1863; and November 16, 1896, are all historic dates for Americans, for Seventh-day Adventists, for Afro-Americans, and for Oakwoodites, respectively. November 16, 1896, the founding date of Oakwood College, is a date that will be forever enshrined in the hearts of all those whose lives have been touched by Oakwood College.

A Centennial celebration at an academic institution provides an unusual opportunity for that institution to capture a special moment in time in which to pause and take a retrospective view of its beginnings, its progress, and its accomplishments. Even more importantly, it provides a special opportunity for an institution like Oakwood College to give thanks to God and to confess, "hitherto hath the Lord helped us" (I Samuel 7:12).

In celebrating 100 years of excellence in Christian education, Oakwood College chose as its theme, **Preserving the Past; Possessing the Present; Positioning for the Future."** This book is an elegant chronicle of the historic events and programs that punctuated the Centennial celebration. The Centennial year began on a Sabbath, November 10, 1995, and ended on a Sabbath, November 16, 1996. The year was characterized by an atmosphere of institutional enthusiasm and exuberance. On several occasions, the history of the college was recounted as an epic story of an institution's journey from **"obscurity to recognition."** Oakwood College was historically portrayed as **"A college sent from God."** This wave of celebration crested on Sabbath, April 6, when approximately 30,000 alumni and friends of the college returned to honor and visit their beloved Oakwood College during the annual National Alumni Homecoming.

Kudos and commendations are in order to Dr. Benjamin F. Reaves, the past president of Oakwood College; his administrative team; Dr. Roy E. Malcolm, the Centennial Coordinator; and the Centennial Steering Committee for the planning and the execution of a conspicuously successful Centennial celebration. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

E. A. Cooper
Special Assistant to the President
1995-1997

PREFACE....

IT IS WRITTEN! Belief in this statement was the motivating factor behind the writing of this volume. Information that may prove useful in the future should be documented and kept.

Celebrating 100 years of educational excellence is very significant, and the events of the celebration, carefully planned and executed, are also important. In fact, part of the Centennial theme was "Preserving the Past." So the writing of this book is partial fulfillment of that objective.

The book covers the entire year (1995-1996) celebration with special emphasis on major events. The opening weekend highlights a docudrama featuring Oakwood presidents from 1917 to 1996; the keynote address by Charles E. Bradford and the grand opening concert by the world renowned singer, Shirley Verrett, soprano.

Of special interest are the excerpts and summaries of speeches by celebrity speakers including The College Fund/UNCF president William H. Gray, Congressman John R. Lewis, Retired Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Colin Powell, and former astronaut Mae C. Jemison, M.D.

An abridged edition of the November 16, 1996, farewell address by the immediate past president, Benjamin F. Reaves, is included as a challenge to the reader that enough time has been spent wandering in the wilderness. It is now time to turn northward and go up to the high ground and possess the promised land. In keeping with this admonition, the book concludes with coverage of the Centennial Grand Finale, a cantata entitled: *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes*.

Acknowledgment

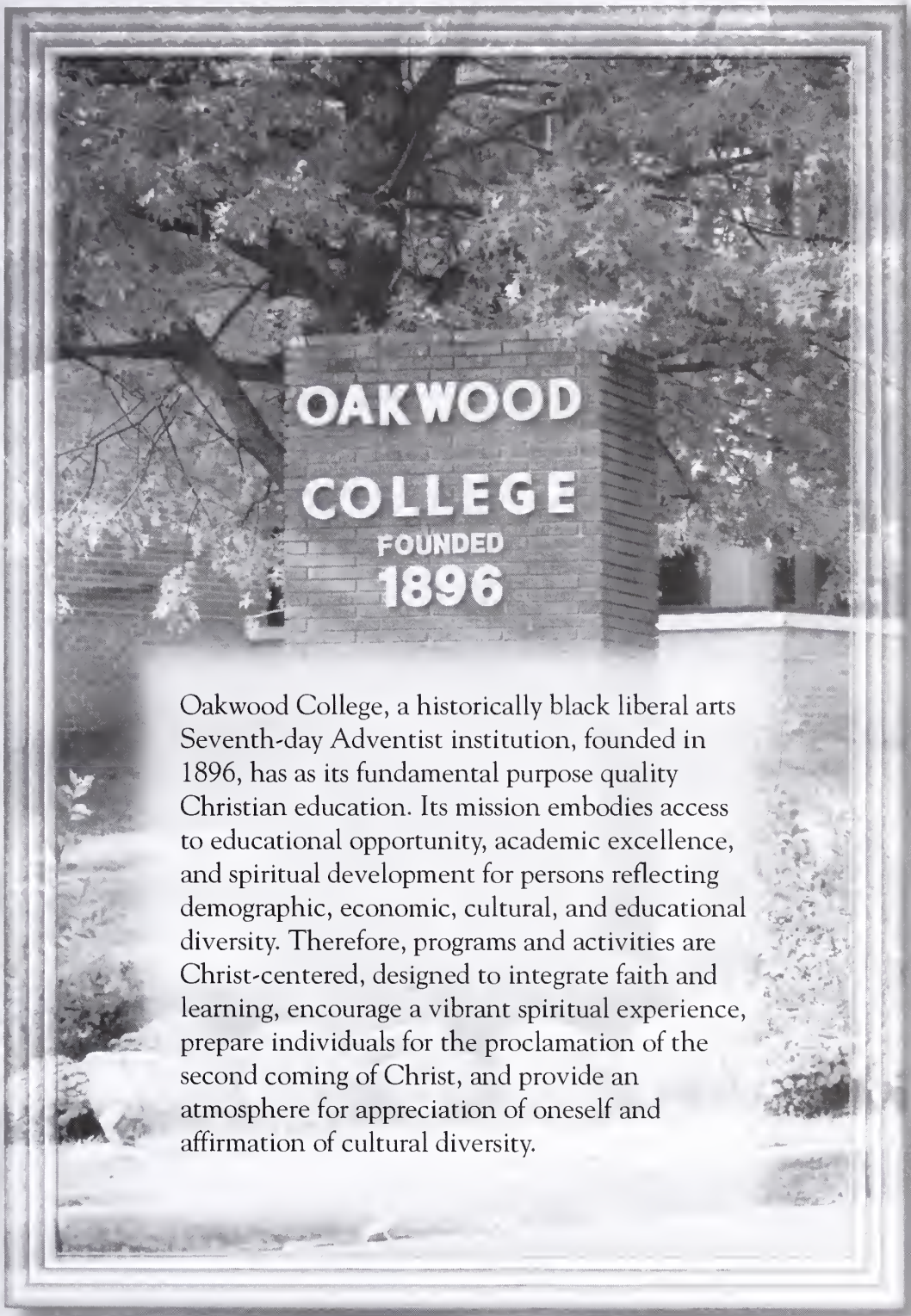
Sincerest gratitude is hereby extended to Mrs. Shirley Bailey for her professional and technical assistance in the total project from its inception to completion.

Special thanks also go to Ms. Chanel Malcolm and Mrs. Shirley Iheanacho for their editorial help with the manuscript.

Finally, I thank Mr. Fred Pullins for being there to capture on film most of the events covered in this volume.

DEDICATION....

To all whose lives
have been touched
by Oakwood during
the 100 years from
1896 to 1996
and beyond.
Also to those special ones
who allowed me quality time
off for this project–speaking of
Edrene, Chanel, Royce, Kelli,
Charene, Peter, and Charea.



Oakwood College, a historically black liberal arts Seventh-day Adventist institution, founded in 1896, has as its fundamental purpose quality Christian education. Its mission embodies access to educational opportunity, academic excellence, and spiritual development for persons reflecting demographic, economic, cultural, and educational diversity. Therefore, programs and activities are Christ-centered, designed to integrate faith and learning, encourage a vibrant spiritual experience, prepare individuals for the proclamation of the second coming of Christ, and provide an atmosphere for appreciation of oneself and affirmation of cultural diversity.

1996

President Benjamin F. Reaves and First Lady, Jean.

President with administrative secretary Shirley Iheanacho

Chapter 1

PREPARATION FOR THE CELEBRATION

For more than a decade prior to 1996, alumni and friends of Oakwood College began receiving information about the upcoming Centennial Year.

Rosa T. Banks, Vice President for Development, was the source of what she called "Centennial Countdown." I was not excited about an event or series of events so far away. But, alas! Dr. Banks was called to the General Conference in Maryland, and before long it was 1992, and President Benjamin F. Reaves announced at an officers meeting that he was appointing **Roy E. Malcolm** to coordinate activities for the 1996 Centennial Celebration.

The president was both an observer and participant in many other activities I had directed (registration, presentation, commencement exercises, academic convocation), and so was comfortable with his decision. On the other side of the table, I was surprised, yet "humbly proud" to be chosen. Immediately I requested a steering committee that would include some college officers present. Ultimately the members of the Centennial Steering Committee were:

Theresa Allen, Student Activities Director
Kesslyn Brade, U.S.M. President (1995)
Minneola Dixon, Archivist
Trevor Fraser, Vice President for Student Services
Chlora Jones, National Alumni President
Kelby McCottry, U.S.M. President (1996)
Alean Middleton, Trustee, Community

CENTENNIAL OFFICERS

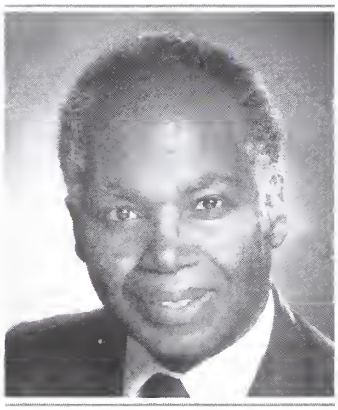
1995-1996

Sandra F. Price
V.P., Academic Affairs

Moges W. Selassie
Interim V.P., Financial Affairs

Trevor H. Fraser
V.P., Student Services

Prudence L. Pollard
V.P., Administration, Planning and Human Resources



Roy E. Malcolm
Dean, College Relations

R. Timothy McDonald
Exec. Director, Development

Emerson A. Cooper
Special Asst. to the President

Juliaette Phillips
Asst. V.P., Academic Affairs

Claude Thomas
Asst. V.P., Student Services

STUDENT MEMBERS

of Steering Committee

U.S.M. President
1995-1996
Kesslyn Brade

U.S.M. President
1996-1997
Kelby McCottry

U.S.M. Representative
1996-1997
Jeanine Warden

THE CENTENNIAL SENATE

President: Isaac Palmer

Hattie Mims, Title III Coordinator
Eurydice Osterman, Professor of Music
Sonia Paul, Secretary–Student Services
Juliaette Phillips, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs
Sandra Price, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Fred Pullins, Director of Alumni Affairs
Moges Selassie, Interim Vice President–Fiscal Affairs
Jeanine Warden, U.S.M. Representative
Mervyn Warren, Writer of O.C. History; Chair–Department of Religion
Don Wood, Director of Oakwood Graphixx

These people proved to be a great committee as we set out to work. Our first assignments included: setting an objective for the Centennial; developing a theme and theme song; and designing an attractive and appealing logo.

Utilizing denominational journals as well as our own institutional publications, we invited input from our alumni for all of the above.

Centennial Objective

The committee agreed on the following objectives:

That the college should use the opportunities provided by the Centennial to redefine institutional goals, and to make a positive statement to alumni, foundations, and community as to what it is about.

Centennial Theme

Several suggestions were submitted. The committee chose this one by **Eurydice Osterman**, D.M.A.:

"Preserving the Past; Preparing for the Future While Living the Dream"

The college officers referred the proposed theme to President Reaves and me for further refining. The final draft read:

Preserving the Past;
Possessing the Present
Positioning for the Future

This was widely accepted as complete and inspiring.

Centennial Theme Song

No one from among our more than 6,500 alumni submitted anything for a theme song after months of advertising. Thanks to WAFF 48 News who invited Oakwood to an advertising session at the Huntsville Hilton Hotel, Mrs. Marcia Burnette and I attended. Representatives from AXCESS Broadcasting from Dallas, Texas, were the presenters. They had done research on Oakwood and prepared a theme song for our Centennial.

I liked the tune, but I asked them to let me rewrite the lyrics. They were reluctant, because it was free. All Oakwood would pay for was air time on radio or TV locally. Finally, they yielded. The next day I faxed the new version to the company in Texas. Shortly after receiving it, they called back to congratulate us saying, "The words were perfect." The song was entitled: ***The Future Starts Today.***

The Future Starts Today

There's a marker on the road
That says 100 years
Since we began our journey
'Midst toil and anxious fears;
We traveled it together,
Learned along the way,
Looking to the future
And the future starts today.

All through the 100 years
God's blessings made it seem
We were destined to become
Part of the American dream

Look to the future at Oakwood College
Learn from the past
True wisdom and knowledge.
Look to the future
At Oakwood College,
Possess the Present.
Look to the future
At Oakwood College.

Like the theme, the theme song was a winner heard on radio and television, sung at first by the producers and later by the Oakwood Group, Connect-5.

Centennial Logo

Mr. Don Wood developed the logo which, at first, was rectangular. I was able to sketch a circular version and had it developed at Precision Graphics. We used both, depending on what seemed most appropriate.

Star - Symbolic of the Morning Star Boat associated with Oakwood's early history.
Swashes - Suggest progress.
Colors - O.C. colors of Blue and Gold.
Celebrate With Us - Community Invitation/Participation.

Centennial News

Hardly anyone in the Tennessee Valley was unaware that Oakwood College was taking center stage, as word about its 100th birthday celebration filled the air. Radio, television, press releases, handbills, billboards, magazines, newspapers, and just plain word of mouth were very effective in telling the story.

Local interest in the activities on campus heightened when it became known that world-renowned celebrities would visit and speak at the college. Among them would be General Colin Powell; astronaut Mae C. Jemison; CEO and President of Westinghouse, Michael Jordan; UNCF chief, Bill Gray; NFL Hall of Famer, Brian Holloway; and singer **Shirley Verrett** who would open the celebration in concert at the Von Braun Center on Saturday night, November 11, 1995.

C-100/Campus Aesthetics

For many years the beautiful Oakwood campus was decked with a variety of building identification markers. In preparing for the Centennial, College Relations embarked on a mission to install uniformed markers.

On April 13, 1995, a special ceremony was conducted at Wade Hall to dedicate the new sineage system donated by the **Committee of 100.** The signs are made of redwood mounted on metal frames, standing three feet above the ground. They were manufactured by **Dr. David Steen** of Berrien Springs, Michigan, and transported to the campus by **Roy Malcolm** and **Lance Shand.** Installation was by **physical plant personnel.** The ceremony was attended by members of **C-100** at which time a check for production cost was presented to President Reaves by C-100 president, **Dr. William Hicks.**

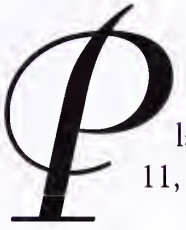
Many years prior to 1996, Dr. Rosa Banks initiated activities for celebrating Oakwood's 100th anniversary. However, in 1989 she accepted a call to the General Conference of SDA as a General Field Secretary. She was the first woman elected to that position.

Rosa T. Banks, Ed.D., Former V. P. for Development and Enrollment and Executive Assistant to the President.

Pastor Willie Taylor
"Watch Ye Saints"

Chapter 2

OPENING CEREMONIES



lans for the grand opening weekend of November 10 and 11, 1995, were to include:

Vespers	at	7:00 p.m.	Friday	College Church
Sabbath School	at	9:15 a.m.	Saturday	College Church
Worship	at	11:00 a.m.	Saturday	College Church
Concert	at	8:00 p.m.	Saturday	VBC Concert Hall

The Vesper Program

◆ **Song Service:** Anyone who attended Oakwood in the "good old days" remembers the inspirational song services conducted just prior to the Friday evening vespers in Moran Hall. In fact, the song service was a vital part of the program. In his days as a student, **Pastor Willie Taylor** was among the top song leaders. Remembering this, the Centennial program committee asked Pastor Taylor to conduct the song service for this special event. Traveling all the way from Orlando, Florida, Pastor Taylor was in place on time, and led the congregation in a rousing singspiration of old favorites such as: "The Blood," "Precious Memories," Watch Ye Saints," and "City of Light."

◆ **Centennial Hymn:** The program continued with the singing of the hymn

> Now thank we all our God
> With heart and hands and voices,
> Who Wondrous things hath done,
> In whom His world rejoices....

The hymn, introduced by **Claude L. Thomas**, was so appropriate for the occasion, we called it "The Centennial Hymn." We find reflections of the Centennial theme in the words of the last stanza: "The one eternal God, Whom earth and heaven adore; For thus it was [past], is now [present], And shall be evermore [future].

The United Student Movement president, **Kelby McCottry**, invoked divine blessings. **Dr. Sandra Price**, Academic Vice President, through the inspired words of Psalm 100 entreated her listeners to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord."

The Aeolians/College Choir, under the direction of **Dr. Eurydice Osterman**, responded with a beautiful rendition of "May Jesus Christ Be Praised."

◆ **Presidential Welcome:** Good and effective publicity resulted in a full house, and **President Benjamin F. Reaves** showed genuine appreciation by his welcome remarks, viz:

- Welcome to a very special weekend that opens the initiation of a glorious celebration. This weekend marks an intentional return to the beginning of Oakwood College and a deserved recognition of its world contribution since its inception in 1896.

  There is no better way to start a celebration, "a celebration of the past," than with the days of this weekend that are set apart for worship, praise, ...remembrance, and thanksgiving for God's providential leading in the life of this institution and its thousands of graduates and students.

  We welcome your presence and participation with us in this the beginning of our Centennial celebration.

◆ The rich, mellow voice of **T. Marshall Kelly**, arousing the audience to expressions of "Amen," "Go on," followed in the rendition of a medley of favorites including:

> There's a wideness in God's Mercy,
> Like the wideness of the sea;
> There's a kindness in His justice,
> Which is more than liberty.

President B. F. Reaves

L-R: Claude Thomas, Sandra Price, Kelby McCottry

The Aeolians: Dr. Eurydice Osterman, Conductor

◆ **Greetings–Former Presidents:** Indeed, it was the mercy and kindness of God which brought Oakwood from obscurity to recognition, and none could tell it better than the living presidents who, with the exception of **Calvin B. Rock**, were present for the opening. **Emerson A. Cooper,** interim president from August to December 1985, spoke to the occasion–reasons for the celebration.

Cooper referred to Oakwood as:

- "A College sent from God" with a special gift to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in general and to Black Adventists in particular.

  Just as God sent forth His Son at the time of the world's greatest need (in the fullness of time), so Oakwood came into being just over 52 years after the SDA Church was founded. It was also at a time when recently emancipated slaves needed a school like Oakwood to educate themselves for service to others.

  As "Jesus *increased in wisdom*," Cooper continued, Oakwood also advanced from an industrial school in 1896 to a full senior college achieving regional accreditation in 1958.

  "*In stature*," Cooper said that Oakwood had grown from 16 students in 1896 to 1,600 in 1996. Finally, "*in favor with God and man*," Oakwood has journeyed from obscurity to worldwide recognition as a quality liberal arts Christian institution.

Oakwood's fifth president, **Garland J. Millet,** brought greetings and congratulations with brief reference to significant development of the college during his administration.

Frank W. Hale, Jr., president from 1966-71, also brought greetings and commendation for the progress the college has made. He noted that his successor **Calvin B. Rock,** and current president, **Benjamin F. Reaves,** were his students, and that he was a student of Garland J. Millet. He concluded his remarks with a quip:

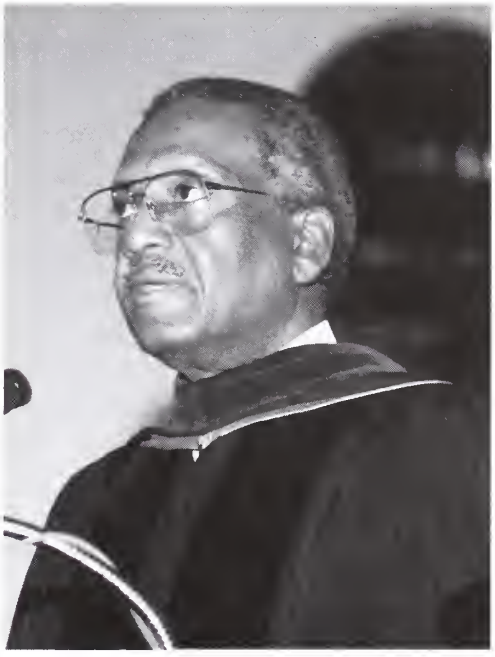
> Now abideth the University of Alabama,
> Alabama A & M University, and Oakwood College,
> But the greatest of these, is Oakwood.

GREETINGS FROM FORMER PRESIDENTS

Emerson A. Cooper
Interim 1985

Frank W. Hale, Jr.
1966-1971

Garland J. Millet
1954-1963



Calvin B. Rock
1971-1985

Former president **Calvin B. Rock** was on assignment in Russia and sent the following message:

- Dear Friends:
  Clara and I wish we could be present as you begin this year of Centennial celebration. However, since duties abroad prevent that pleasure, please accept our written greetings and congratulations. Our prayers are that as you focus upon the specialness of Oakwood's mission and memories, you will experience not only delight in the past, but unshakable confidence in the future as well.

  Thank you for the privilege of inclusion on the program today, and best wishes as you begin formal articulation of the gratitude we all have for Oakwood's century of unique contributions to the Church in general, and to Black Seventh-day Adventism in particular.

  Calvin B. Rock
  General Vice President
  General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

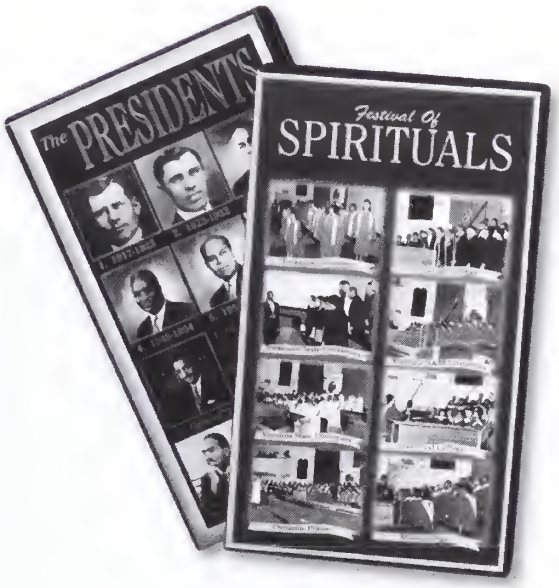
◆ **Docudrama–"The Presidents":** A major event of the grand opening was a 60-minute video presentation on Oakwood's history featuring the presidents.

"*The Presidents*, in a spellbinding combination of drama and documentary, tells the Oakwood story from its humble beginning with only 16 students on an old plantation in 1896 to the vibrant campus of over 1,600 students in 1996, just over 90 full-time faculty members (close to 60% with terminal degrees), and buildings of the most modern architectural design.

"Eyewitnesses, including living presidents, relate thrilling episodes which take you back to 'miracle territory' where divine providence guided the men chosen to lead the institution through 100 years of excellence in Christian Education."

The video was very well received and became a best seller among Oakwoodites. The production team included:

David Person	Director/Producer
Anthony Perkins	Co-producer/Director
Paul Van Putten	Writer/Co-producer
Minneola Dixon	Historical Consultant
Roy E. Malcolm	Executive Producer/Design
Video One Inc.	Post Production Facility



Ms. Ramona Hyman

◆ **Sixty-five Oak Trees:** It was the presence of 65 Oak Trees on the original campus which led to the inclusion of the word OAKWOOD in naming the newly-founded institution. **Ms. Ramona Hyman,** Assistant Professor of English, developed a dramatic reading entitled "Sixty-five Oak Trees" which she presented at the opening ceremony and received flattering reviews.

◆ **100 Oak Trees**—Over the years, nearly all of the original 65 oak trees died. The marker near Blake Center represents the spot where one of those giant oak trees once stood.

As one travels along Adventist Boulevard, one can see many flourishing young trees developing. This represents a cooperative effort of the Centennial Committee and Grounds Department in the planting of 100 new oak trees in 1996 as a special initiative of the Centennial celebration.

Special Guests

In the audience was a very special couple who had come, at the invitation of the college, to "celebrate with us." They were **Mr. and Mrs. Ray Jacobs.** Mrs. Jacobs is the daughter of Oakwood's first president, **James L. Beardsley.** Mr. Jacobs is the grandson of Oakwood's first principal, **Solon M. Jacobs.** They reside in Tennessee.

In her remarks to the audience, Mrs. Jacobs said that she remembered the 65 oak trees. As a young child, she lived on the campus, and played beneath the oaks with other children. She recalled her mother wishing she had a camera on an occasion when she (Mrs. Jacobs) and one of her little black friends were seated closely beneath her little pink umbrella." And I tell you," Mrs. Jacobs said forcefully, "there was no racism underneath that pink umbrella." Amidst thunderous applause, the couple returned to their seats.

The evening's activities ended on a high note with Dynamic Praise singing "True Religion." The Vice President for Student Services, **Dr. Trevor Fraser,** pronounced the benediction.

Mr. & Mrs. Ray Jacobs

Sabbath Services

◆ **Sabbath School: Dr. Ruth Faye Davis** is reputed for conducting excellent Sabbath School programs. Assisted by **Ms. Theresa Allen,** she organized a most memorable program which began with a musical by the celebrated **Singing Men** of the College Church.

The main feature was the dramatization of the early beginnings of the Oakwood School. Ten students as actors in period dress were the main presenters. They acquired the Sabbath School lesson for Sabbath, November 14, 1896, which was entitled *"The Attempted Arrest, The Water of Life,"* and gave a moving dramatic presentation.

Student Actors

Superintendent Ruth F. Davis

Singing Men

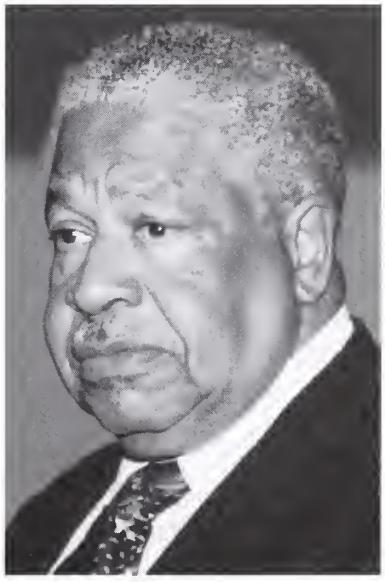
The regular Sabbath School teachers were allowed time to address the lesson of the day, which was "*The Incarnation of Grace.*" Some of these teachers, like the students, wore period dress. The mission emphasis appeal of November 14, 1896, was also dramatized by the actors.

◆ **Worship:** The keynote speaker for the worship service was **Charles E. Bradford, D.D.,** former chair of the Oakwood College Board. Elder Bradford was asked to gear his message toward the first line of the Centennial theme–**Preserving the Past.**

Elder Bradford's mother, the former **Ella Littlejohn,** was one of the 16 students enrolled at the new Oakwood School in 1896. Her family accepted the Adventist message proclaimed by **James and Edson White** on the **Morning Star** boat at Vicksburg, Mississippi, in **1895.** With this background, Elder Bradford was favored for this special task.

In his message, Elder Bradford emphasized the need for students at Oakwood to know their school's history. "If you didn't have the past, you wouldn't be here today. We've got to tell you how we got here," Bradford said. He noted that biblical leaders such as Joshua and Samuel marked with stone places of victory through divine intervention.

Bradford warned that there is peril in forgetting. "Too many of us," he insisted, "don't know who we are and where we are going." He added, "It is evident how Satan is leading many around at will. Someone who knows has got to show the way."



Charles E. Bradford, D.D.

Shirley Verrett, Soprano

Chapter 3

GRAND OPENING CONCERT

Shirley Verrett, Queen of Song

There we were at the Von Braun Center Concert Hall. It was 8:00 p.m., Saturday, November 11, 1995—the long awaited moment. An enthusiastic audience of music lovers from Huntsville, Atlanta, Birmingham and Nashville, applauded as **Dr. Henry Bradford,** pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Huntsville (himself an accomplished musician) was introduced. He prayed that God would "anoint the voice" of Ms. Verrett to bless the heart and soul of each listener. **President Benjamin F. Reaves,** in his usual unique style and careful choice of words, welcomed the audience that was about to be regaled with the music of an Oakwoodite whose long and distinguished career has been acclaimed for exceptional gifts as a singing actress, winning special praise for her development of a unique and varied repertoire.

WELCOME

Mayor Steve Hettinger, unable to attend the program, sent a letter welcoming Ms. Verrett back to Huntsville. The Chairman of the Madison County Commission, Mike Gillespie, also sent a very thoughtful letter of welcome on behalf of the people of the City of Huntsville and Madison County.

Sister colleges across the nation, church organizations, including the South Central Conference, sent congratulations to the college and best wishes to the opening celebrity, Ms. Shirley Verrett.

Steve Hettinger, Mayor

City of Huntsville
P. O. Box 308
Huntsville, Alabama 35804
(205) 532-7304

Welcome to Huntsville!

As Mayor of the City of Huntsville, I take this opportunity to welcome Shirley Verrett to our beautiful city. It is my sincere hope that you thoroughly enjoy yourself during your stay in Huntsville. Our residents are honored to have you perform as a part of the kick-off activities for the Oakwoood College Centennial Celebration.

Meeting the challenge of educating young adults for the last 100 years is certainly a commendable achievement. Oakwood College has a strong sense of community under the leadership of Dr. Benjamin Reaves. The annual homecoming celebration, United Negro College Fund Banquet, the programs broadcast from WOCG radio station, and the Adult Degree Program are just a few of the many quality of life enhancements Oakwood College offers to our citizenry.

I am very proud to have Oakwood College as a part of the Huntsville community. I the success of the past 100 years is any indication of what Oakwood can accomplish the next 100 years will be an even greater success.

With every good wish I remain,

Sincerely,

Steve Hettinger

Steve Hettinger
Mayor
Huntsville, Alabama

A Future on the Horizon
Huntsville

MADISON COUNTY
commission

Mike Gillespie
Chairman

Tillman Hill
District 1

Faye Dyer
District 2

Jerry Craig
District 3

Glen M. Nunley
District 4

Robert E. Colson
District 5

Prince Preyer, Jr.
District 6

Congratulations to Oakwood College
Welcome to Shirley Verrett

On behalf of the people of Huntsville-Madison County, the Madison County Commission congratulates Oakwood College — your faculty, alumni and students — as you embark on your centennial celebration.

For one hundred years, this institution has had a tremendous influence on the quality of education and life, not only in our community, but across this country and world.

This event tonight applauds your year long recognition of the efforts and long, distinguished history of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in establishing and maintaining Oakwood as a renowned liberal arts college. We join you in this celebration.

It is very appropriate that your opening concert brings world renowned artist Shirley Verrett to our city. As the Washington Post says, " her voice is only one element of an arsenal that includes superb musicianship, exquisite diction and a flair for the dramatic."

We hope you enjoy tonight, the first of many events, which begins the auspicious marking of Oakwood College's one hundredth birthday.

Sincerely,

Mike Gillespie

Mike Gillespie
Chairman

"A Global Perspective"

South Central Conference
of Seventh Day Adventists
Nashville, Tennessee
Welcomes . . .
Ms. Shirley Verrett, soprano
and
Congratulates . . .
Oakwood College
on the occasion of its
Celebration
of
100 Years
of
Quality Christian Education
"World Class and Heaven Bound"
Joseph W. McCoy
President

Mrs. Ginger Beazley, Assistant Professor of Music, very eloquently introduced the **Queen of Song, Ms. Shirley Verrett.**

The audience applauded and fell in love with her the moment she stepped on stage, resplendent in a gown of gold brocade and black taffeta, accompanied by pianist **Warren George Wilson.** She commanded her audience with selections from Henry Purcell including *Music for A While*, *If Music be the Food of Love*, *Thy Hand Belinda...When I am Laid in Earth* from Dido and Aeneas. The program continued with selections also from Johannes Brahms and Ludwig Van Beethoven.

The Program

I
HENRY PURCELL
Music for a While
If Music be the Food of Love
Thy Hand Belinda....When I am
Laid in Earth
from "Dido and Aeneas"

II
JOHANNES BRAHMS
Auf dem Kirchhofe
Meiner Lieder
Der Tod das ist die Kuhle Nacht
Sonntag
Dein blaues Auge
Von ewiger Liebe

III
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
Ah, Perfido.....Scene and Aria, Op. 65

Intermission

IV
RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN
Carousel Medley.....Arr. By Pat Holley

V
Arr. HALL JOHNSON
Po' Mo'ner Got a Home At Last
Ev'ry Time I Feel The Spirit
Fix Me

VI
GUISEPPE VERDI
Scenes I & II
from "Otello," Act IV

Following the intermission, Ms. Verrett returned in a flowing, swirling gown of red and rendered a medley from Rogers and Hammerstein's *Carousel* arranged by Pat Holley. Ms. Verrett had spent the 1994-95 season in New York performing this work at the Lincoln Center's Vivian Beaumont Theatre–her debut into musical theatre on Broadway. In introducing, from personal notes, the *Carousel* songs, she mentioned how much she enjoyed being tossed about by handsome young men as she sang one of the selections. The production garnered five Tony Awards and Ms. Verrett received rave reviews for her role.

The *Carousel* songs were followed by three Negro spirituals arranged by Hall Johnson. They included: "Po Mo'ner Got a Home at Last," "Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit," and "Fix Me."

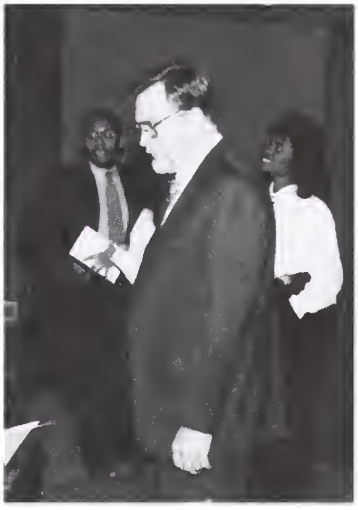
In the final portion of the program by Guisppe Verdi, Ms. Verrett did Scenes I & II from *Othello*, Act IV. Before the last selection, Ms. Verrett announced that she had caught a cold in the changing Huntsville weather. The audience was surprised because they had no idea that she was ill. She added that she kept it a secret until then and would work hard to complete the program. She knew that the worst was behind her. In answer to Dr. Bradford's earlier prayer, God blessed in sustaining her rich soprano until the end, and the audience responded with a long, thunderous, standing ovation until she returned for an encore.

◆ **Reception:** Later, at the reception, Ms. Verrett joined Dr. and Mrs. Reaves and officials of his administration, former Oakwood presidents Millet and Hale, Elder and Mrs. Charles Bradford, Elder and Mrs. Joseph McCoy (President, South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists), Dr. and Mrs. Leslie Pollard (senior pastor, Oakwood College Church), Pastor and Mrs. Michael Harpe (assistant pastor, Oakwood College Church), members of the Centennial Steering Committee, Anisa Jones (the reigning Miss Oakwood), Kelby McCottry (president of the United Student Movement), USM officers, and a host of Oakwood faculty members, staff, students, and friends from the Huntsville community.

Ms. Verrett's appearances in opera, concerts, recitals, and films and her many recordings, have earned her global recognition and admiration. She is distinguished by her repertoire of both dramatic soprano and mezzo-soprano roles, and her rare combination of vocal gifts, unequaled presence, and elegant style has given her a place in opera houses across the nation and around the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, Covent Garden, The Bolshoi, Paris Opera, San Francisco Opera, and the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

SCENES FROM THE RECEPTION

Shirley Verrett with
Dr. & Mrs. Henry Bradford



Mr. Clifford Price

Ms. Verrett receiving gift from
Mrs. Juliaette Phillips

L-R: Charles Bradford,
Joe McCoy (cousin),
Ms.Verrett, President
B. F. Reaves, Frank
W. Hale, Jr.

Faculty, staff, students, and friends interact at reception

She is a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music, and the recipient of many honors and awards, including the Walter W. Naumberg International Vocal Competition Award, and the Marian Anderson Award. She has received honorary doctorates from Holy Cross College and Northeastern University, and has been awarded both the Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres, 1970, and the Commandeur des Arts des Lettres, 1984, from the French Government. In 1995, Ms. Verrett served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts.

Warren George Wilson, Accompanist

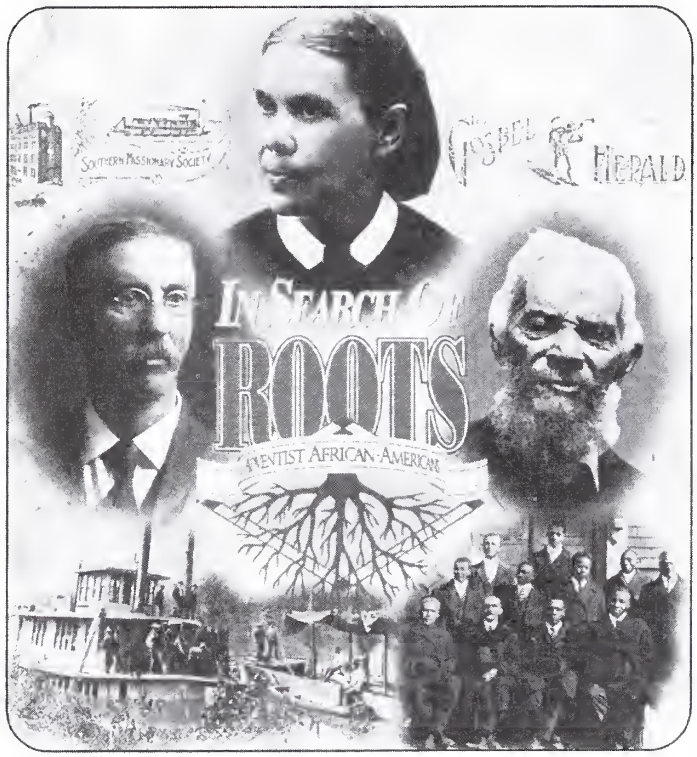
Warren George Wilson studied piano under Adele Marcus at Juilliard School of Music where he received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. He has been pianist for artists including Mary Costa, Anna Moffo, William Warfield, and Shirley Verrett, and has received many awards and grants, including a John Hay Whitney Fellowship, grants from the National Association of Negro Musicians, and from the Hattie M. Strong Foundation. He was the music director for the Turnau Opera Association in Woodstock, New York, for 8 years, associate conductor of the Lake George Opera Festival, and has conducted for Opera Ebony's production of *Faust*.

Mr. Wilson conducted the productions of *Cosi Fan Tutte* at the Wolf Trap Festival; *Porgy and Bess* for the Teatro Municipal in Rio de Janeiro, with American and Brazilian soloists; and the New York premiere of the chamber opera, *Hearing*, at Carnegie Hall's Weill Auditorium. He conducted the world premiere of the opera *Frederick Douglass* by Dorothy Rudd Moore, for which he received critical acclaim. He has regularly appeared at Lincoln Center with renowned soloists, the Boys Choir of Harlem, and the Orchestra of Saint Luke.

Mr. Wilson has commissioned or has been responsible for the commissioning of important works for the vocal and orchestral repertoire by various outstanding composers of our time–among whom are George Walker, Thomas Pasatieri, Henri Sauguet, Ned Rorem, and Hale Smith.

TELLING THE STORY

An Anthology on the Development of the Black SDA Work



A Collection of Historical Documents, Articles, and Visuals on Selected Topics Relevant to the Black SDA Work

Compiled by
Delbert W. Baker, Ph.D.

In Cooperation with the Black Caucus of SDA Administrators

Chapter 4

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPECIALS

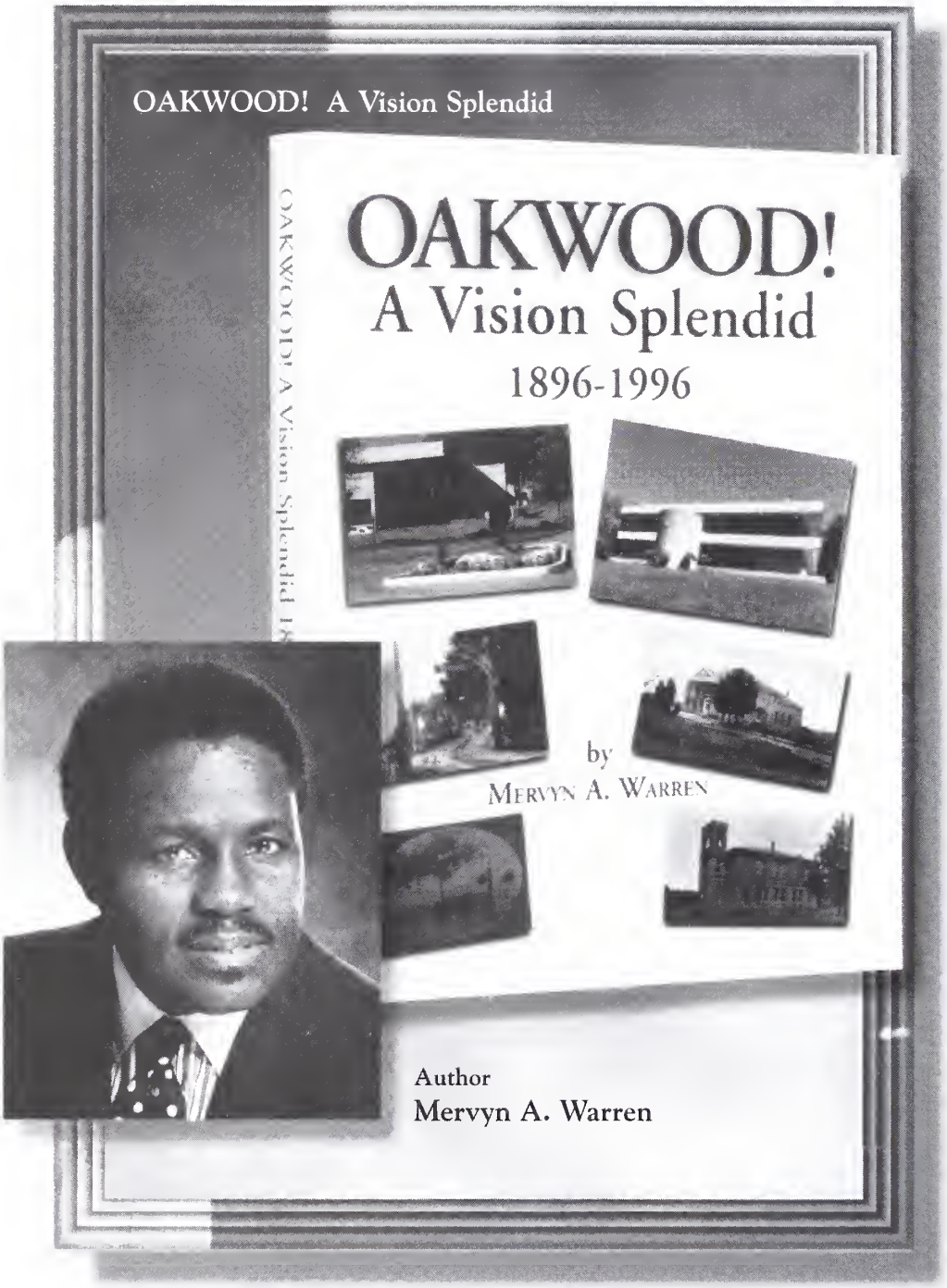
The weekend of February 9-11 was a special one for the Centennial year. Events focused on "The Black Work," "Oakwood History Book," and "The Negro Spiritual." To address the Black Work we invited **Dr. Delbert W. Baker** who had just completed a book entitled *Telling the Story*. **Dr. Mervyn A. Warren** also had just completed a volume on Oakwood's history. Regarding the Negro Spirituals, several Historically Black College and University (HBCU) choirs of Alabama and Tennessee were to be featured in a special program on our campus.

The Black Work

On Friday evening, February 9, 1996, the Adventist Youth Society and the Theology and Religion Forum joined efforts in presenting an inspirational program with Dr. Baker as the primary speaker. At that time, Baker was Special Assistant to the President of Loma Linda University and Director of Diversity. His message was entitled "Triangle of Providence: Blacks, Ellen and Oakwood."

In his compelling and heartfelt presentation, Baker showed how Blacks, Ellen, and Oakwood together helped to develop, strengthen, and maintain the Black Work among Seventh-day Adventists under the providence of God.

Providence, according to Baker, speaks of the foreseeing care and guidance of God. It is a powerful principle in which to believe. He added: "Providence gives courage when one is discouraged, hope when the future appears bleak, dignity when insulted, control when out of control, focus when directionless."


OAKWOOD! A Vision Splendid
OAKWOOD! A Vision Splendid 1896-1996
OAKWOOD!
A Vision Splendid
1896-1996
by
Mervyn A. Warren
Author
Mervyn A. Warren

Baker further stated that the Black people are the direct product of God's providence, and there is therefore a great need for more people who can articulate our history in "Telling the Story."

Following Dr. Baker's message, the large church audience moved to the C.T. Richards Chapel for a video presentation which vividly explained further the development of the Black work. An enthusiastic audience left inspired and better informed about the development of the Black Work of Seventh-day Adventists.

OAKWOOD! A Vision Splendid Unveiled

On Sabbath afternoon, February 10, history was made when the new Oakwood College History Book was unveiled before an enthusiastic audience at the Oakwood College Church. In a make-believe television talk show program, Dr. Mervyn A. Warren, author, was interviewed about the book he had just written and published entitled ***Oakwood! A Vision Splendid.***

President Benjamin F. Reaves was invited to the "T.V. studio" where he was presented the first copy of the new publication. He was very impressed with the beauty and literary excellence of the book, and expressed thanks and commendation to Dr. Warren.

The eight chapters of the book deal with:

I. Oakwood Industrial School – 1896-1904
II. What Shall They Teach?
III. Oakwood Manual Training School – 1904-1917
IV. Oakwood Junior College – 1917-1945
V. Oakwood College: Coming of Age – 1945-58
VI. Reaching for the Stars: Accreditation and Recognition – 1958-1966
VII. Visioning for Splendid Futures – 1966-1995
VIII. Potpourri.

Copies of the book became available at the College Bookstore and some Adventist Book Centers.

Festival of Spirituals

The Festival of Spirituals held February 11, 1996, at the College Church, constituted one of the most dynamic events ever held in the City of Huntsville. Bad weather of ice and snow threatened attendance and participation of sister institutions. In fact, days before the program, one institution faxed a message indicating that its choir could not participate because the cold weather had curtailed rehearsals for the event.

Another choir director called to say that a similar program was being held in Birmingham and they were invited for that same day. Without alarming members of our steering committee, the writer addressed both situations personally and forcefully and prevailed. The program in Birmingham was postponed because Oakwood preceded it in plans and written invitations. The other choir decided to "get busy" and make up for lost time. In addition, nature smiled as it held back rain, ice, and snow, allowing sunshine to break through the clouds.

On the afternoon of Sunday, February 11, 1996, elegant coaches of HBCU choirs began moving into the city, fulfilling that which newspapers, radio, and television for weeks enthusiastically announced would occur in recognition of Oakwood College Centennial Celebration. The young people were met at the College Church where they were greeted and provided with a delightful meal prepared by the **Marriott Food Service.**

"Oakwood Strings" student ensemble.

The choirs and conductors participating were:

Alabama A & M University	–	Mr. Richard Tucker
Alabama State University	–	Mr. Joel Jones
Miles College	–	Mr. Chris Hale
Oakwood College Aeolians	–	Dr. Eurydice Osterman
Oakwood College Dynamic Praise	–	Mr. Owen Simons
Talladega College	–	Dr. Benjamin Brooks
Tennessee State University	–	Dr. Darrel C. Nettles
Tuskegee University	–	Mr. Steven Hayes
Inspirational Choir (First SDA Church)	–	Mr. Cleveland Wilson
Mass Choir	–	Dr. Alma Blackmon

Also participating:

Oakwood Strings	–	Ms. Anne Smith Winbush, J.D.
Huntsville Youth Orchestra	–	Dr. Beatrice Collins Williams

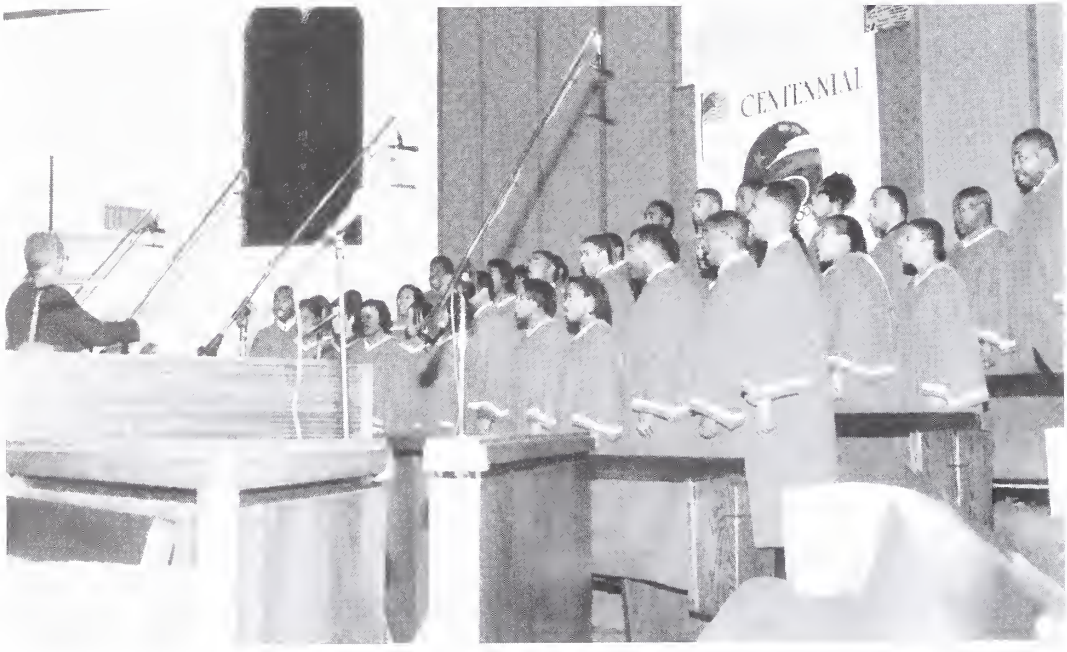
The mass choir, under the direction of **Dr. Alma Blackmon**, presented a gorgeous sight in their respective choir robes.

The Program

What Did the Choirs Sing?

The program began at 5:00 p.m. with a prelude by the Huntsville Youth Orchestra Brass Quintet featuring: James Liverman and Craig Cagle, trumpet; Greg Salinas, horn; Jeremy Lawson, trombone; Tony Mason, tuba.

Inspirational Choir, First SDA Church



Alabama A&M University

The Inspirational Choir of First SDA Church in Huntsville began the devotional with an arrangement of "This Day" (by Edwin Hawkins), under the direction of **Mr. Cleveland Wilson.** They returned later in the program with a moving presentation of *Order My Steps*, for which they received a standing ovation. A general welcome was extended to the audience by **President Benjamin F. Reaves.**

The United Student Movement president, **Kelby McCottry,** Mayor of Huntsville, **Steve Hettinger, President Virginia Caples** of Alabama A & M University, and **President Johnny L. Harris** of Drake Technical College all brought special greetings. Mayor Hettinger told the audience that he had to walk over 150 yards across the field in order to get to the church because of the heavy traffic that was lined up along Highway 53 on their way to the campus. The mayor went on to say that many people went back home fearing they would not find a seat in the house. To accommodate the overflow crowd, a giant screen was set up in the adjacent Moseley Complex chapel.

Ms. Juliaette Phillips, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented "the occasion," and introduced the choirs. Each choir was to present two spirituals, and later come together to form the mass choir with guest conductor Dr. Alma Blackmon.

The program proceeded as follows:

- Alabama A & M University

  Ezekiel Saw the Wheel, arr. William Dawson
  Soon Ah Will Be Done, arr. William Dawson

- Alabama State University

  Old Time Religion, arr. Moses Hogan
  Ride on King Jesus, arr. Robert Becormier

Alabama State University

Miles College

- Miles College

  I've Been 'buked, arr. Hall Johnson
  Now Behold the Lamb, arr. Kirk Franklin

- Oakwood College Aeolians

  Precious Lord, arr. Roland Carter
  Praising Song, arr. Marvin Curtis

- Oakwood College Dynamic Praise

  Jesus is a Rock, Burleigh
  True Religion, Eugene Simpson

- Talladega College

  Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit, arr. Moses Hogan
  I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Moves, arr. Moses Hogan

- Tennessee State

  Hush! Somebody's Callin' My Name, Dennard
  Look a' That Star, Althouse

- Tuskegee University

  Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray, Burleigh
  In His Care-O, William L. Dawson
  I Thank You Jesus, Robert L. Morris

The program moved with precision. As one choir completed its performance, it quietly returned to its place in the audience as another took its place. The choirs were at their best. The smallest ensemble was the Tennessee State University Meistersingers who received tremendous applause from the audience as they walked with such dignity to and from the stage, singing all the way. *I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray* by Tuskegee also attracted unusual audience response.

Oakwood College

Dynamic Praise

Talladega College

The blending of the choirs in their colorful robes provided a delightful scene as well as a majestic sound under the baton of the remarkable conductor, **Alma Blackmon**, who had selected **Ms. Edrene Malcolm** as the guest soloist for the spiritual *I Wanna Be Ready* arranged by James Miller. The second number by the Mass Choir was *In Bright Mansions Above* arranged by Roland Carter. It was a moving moment which caused the listener to reflect on the previous song that indeed I want to be ready to enter those bright mansions above when life on earth is no more.

Alma M. Blackmon, D.Mus.

Tennessee State University

Tuskegee University

Attendees noted the program as a major highlight of the Centennial and one of the best community events ever conducted in Huntsville.

President Reaves called the occasion "A spectacularly successful Centennial event," adding how thrilling it was "to observe talented youth from the participating groups as they reinforce the life importance of the educational initiative God has entrusted to us!"

At the end of the program, the young people were given a delicious meal and words of commendation and appreciation were expressed for their excellent performance. Choir members, directors, guests, and city officials expressed strong desires for that program to become an annual event.

Letters of thanks and video recordings were sent to the participating schools by the Office of College Relations on behalf of the college and Steering Committee. In addition, **Dr. Blackmon** wrote to each director her own letter of appreciation with "nuances of difference" as a result of personal acquaintance with them. The following are extracts of identical paragraphs:

> I am writing to thank you for your participation in the Centennial Negro Spiritual Festival recently held at Oakwood College. Specifically, I am grateful for the care with which you prepared the two selections which I had chosen for the mass choir to sing. Your singers came knowing the music so well that my only job was to shape the compositions. Therefore, both the rehearsal and the performance itself were very pleasant for me.
>
> Please convey to your students the joy they gave me that day, my sincere gratitude for their devotion to the task at hand, and my sincere desire for them to strive with all their might toward goals that will give them a most satisfying life. Congratulate them also on their singing of the spirituals. . . . Please tell them that, in my opinion, they have the privilege of working with the finest conductor on the college circuit.
>
> With the love of God, humanity, and good music, I remain,
>
> Alma M. Blackmon
> Oakwood Music Faculty (Retired)

Dr. Marcus Thompson, Violist

Chapter 5

BELOVED OAKWOODITES SHARE MUSICAL TALENTS

Oakwood's rich musical heritage was further highlighted during the Centennial celebration. Instead of expending huge sums of money to obtain artists from the world of music, the committee on programming agreed to give recognition to former students who have gone on to advance their talents without abandoning Christian standards.

Two forms of programming were considered in inviting these artists to perform for the Centennial. The first was the usual college lyceum series directed by the Arts and Lectures Committee. The second was music for meditation and reflection suited for Sabbath vespers.

Lyceum Series

Artists featured during the lyceum series were Marcus Thompson, violist; Janice Chandler, soprano; Angelique Clay, soprano; and Lloyd Mallory, tenor.

- **Marcus Thompson:** Dr. Marcus Thompson served as a member of our music faculty for a year (1970). He directed the college choir and held the rank of assistant professor.

  Born in New York, Thompson began to study violin at age six. At the Juilliard School of Music he studied viola, and became the first student to be awarded a doctoral degree in viola.

  Thompson made his exciting debut at Carnegie Hall, New York, in 1968. He has received rave reviews by the *New*

MARCUS THOMPSON
Viola, Viola D'Amore
HSIN-BEI LEE
Piano
PROGRAM
March 5, 1996 - Huntsville, Alabama

Sonata in G minor, S. 1029 (1720) — J. S. Bach [1685-1750]
- Vivace ma mon troppo
- Adagio
- Allegro

Sonata in D minor (c. 1725) — George Federic Handel [1685-1759]
- Grave
- Allegro
- Adagio
- Allegro

Sonata in F minor, Op. 120, #1 (1894) — Johannes Brahms [1833-1897]
- Allegro appassionato
- Andante un poco Adagio
- Allegretto grazioso
- Vivace

INTERMISSION

Kleine Sonata, Op. 25, #2 (1922) — Paul Hindemith [1895-1963]
Massig schnell, Lustig
Sehr Langsam
Sehr Lebhaft

Chant "Bandanna Sketches" Op. 12, #1 (1918) — Clarence Cameron White [1880-1960]
("Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen")
Spiritual, Op. 18, 33 "From the Cotton Fields" (1920)
("Poor Mourner's Got a Home at Last")
Levee Dance, Op. 27, #2 (1927)
("Go Down Moses")
Cabin Song, Op. 18#1 "From the Cotton Fields" (1920)
("Good bye, I'm goin' home/Somewhere around a throne")

Jamaican Rumba (1938) (arr. William Primrose) — Arthur Benjamin [1893-1960]

York Times, *Minneapolis Star*, *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, and other leading newspapers.

On March 5, 1996, Thompson returned to Oakwood and presented a magnificent performance in Moran Hall, in honor of Oakwood's Centennial celebration.

***Huntsville Times* published this letter:**

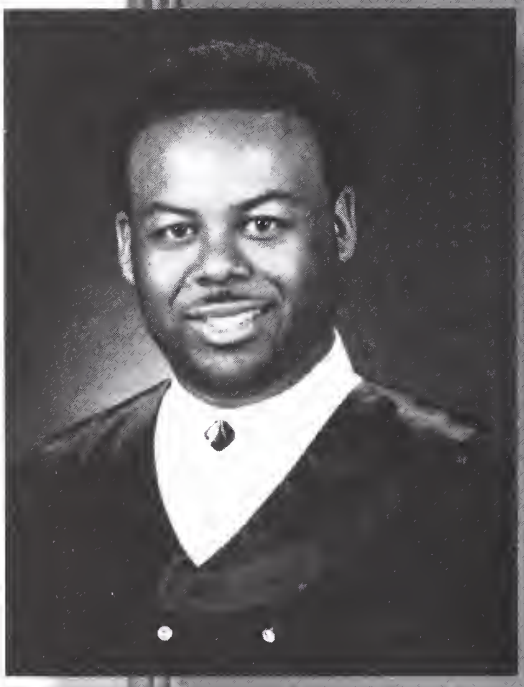
> March 5 was a musically exciting evening at Moran Hall Auditorium of Oakwood College. Performers were Marcus Thompson, viola and viola d'amore and a former resident of Huntsville, and Hsin-Bei Lee, piano. The choice of music and the performers were superb! Their ensemble collaboration was at a very high artistic level. Simply, it was a "knock-out" performance by two sensitive artists.
>
> Much gratitude is due Oakwood College . . . for bringing to North Alabama these artists and last fall the fine program by the great soprano Shirley Verrett and her equally outstanding piano collaborator.
>
> Marx Pales, Director Huntsville Symphony

- **Janice Chandler:** Janice Chandler, soprano, presented an excellent recital in Moran Hall on September 26, accompanied by Eric Conway, a well-known chamber musician. The program included selections by Bach, Mozart, Strauss, Fauré and Charpentier. The final section included several spirituals by John Carter.

  Chandler obtained her B.A. in vocal performance at Oakwood and the M.M. at Indiana University. She has appeared with the National Symphony Orchestra, the Washington Opera, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and the Choral Arts Society of Washington. She has already earned a reputation as a world-class soloist.

- **Angelique Clay, Soprano, and Lloyd Mallory, Tenor:** This Centennial event held in Moran Hall on October 29, 1996, featured two outstanding Oakwoodites–Angelique Clay and Lloyd Mallory, Jr.

Janice Chandler



Lloyd Mallory

Angelique Clay

- **Ms. Clay** obtained the B.A. from Oakwood College and the M.A. in vocal performance at the University of Kentucky. In 1992, she was a Regional Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera Auditions. She received a grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women to pursue a career in opera. She has traveled to Spain as a soloist with the American Spiritual Ensemble. The *Diaria de Ibiza* in Ibiza, Spain, said "Angelique Clay. . . impressed those present with a crystal voice, potent and perfectly controlled."
- **Lloyd Mallory** pursued a music major at Oakwood College, and was the associate conductor of the college premiere group, the *Aeolians*, under the directorship of Dr. John Dennison. Mallory also served as the Music Department accompanist for the vocal majors and minors and the Chamber Singers.

  He became the principal flutist of the University of Alabama in Huntsville Wind Ensemble as well as piccolo player for the Huntsville Youth Orchestra. He also had the distinct pleasure of being selected by audition to sing for the famous entertainer Michael Jackson at a UNCF banquet in his honor April 1988. He received scholarships totaling over $12,000 for his four years of matriculation at Oakwood College.

  Since graduating from Oakwood College, Mallory has served as Director of Music at Pine Forge Academy, leading that choir to many noteworthy honorable mentions such as:

  > Winner of the Quaker Oats Gospel Competition for the Philadelphia area for the first prize of $25,000; sang at the service for the 104th Congressional Prayer Service on Capitol Hill; sang for President Bill Clinton at his annual Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C.

  Mallory received his master's degree from Morgan State University. He traveled extensively with the university choir under the direction of Dr. Nathan Carter. Mallory was tenor soloist in the MISSA BREVIS IN C by Beethoven with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and the Philadelphia Or-

THE PROGRAM

Angelique Clay, Soprano; Lloyd Mallory Jr., Tenor

Rejoice! from THE MESSIAH . . . . . George Frederic Handel

If With All Your Hearts from ELIJAH . . . . . Felix Mendelssohn

Deux Poems de Louis Aragon . . . . . Francis Poulenc
C
Fete Galantes

Una furtiva lagrim à from L´ ELISIR D´AMOREGaetano Donizetti

Jes dis que rien ne m´épourante from CARMEN . . . . Georges Bizet

La donna è mobile from RIGOLETTO . . . . . Giuseppe Verdi

INTERMISSION

Joy! . . . . . Howard Swanson
Since You Went A-Way . . . . . Leslie Adams
Creole Girl

On My Journey . . . . . William Boatner
Ride Up in the Chariot . . . . . Betty Jackson King
Sit Down Servant . . . . . arr. Phillip McIntyre

Witness . . . . . Hall Johnson

All I Ask of You from PHANTOM OPERA . Andrew Lloyd Weber

Wintley Phipps, Minister

chestra. He also performed with the Chicago Symphonia, The Westchester Symphony in New York, the National Symphony of Washington, D.C., and the Bonn, Germany, Symphony Orchestra in Bonn, Germany.

Mr. Mallory is currently serving as the director of choral activities at Oakwood College and is pursuing the Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.) degree in the area of choral conducting.

Centennial Musical Vesper Series

Performing artists for the Sabbath Vesper series included **Wintley Phipps, Angela Brown, Ricky Little, Wayne Bucknor, T. Marshall Kelly**, and **Edrene Malcolm.**

At 5:00 p.m., Saturday, March 9, 1996, the Oakwood College Church was fully occupied. The Department of Social Work had celebrated "Family Day" with **Dr. Standley Gellineau** as guest speaker at the worship hour. Gellineau is Director of the Master of Social Work Program at Walla Walla College in Washington state.

At 4:00 p.m. a panel of experts from diverse cultures and family lifestyles discussed "Family Values and Survival Skills," coordinated by **Juliaette Phillips (Chair), Edith Fraser, Gregory Mims**, and **Ellen Anderson** of the Social Work Department.

Following this informative presentation, the audience was then eager to hear the first in the Centennial musical vesper series.

- **Wintley Phipps**: Born in Trinidad, West Indies, Wintley grew up in Montreal, Canada. From a child he was steeped in hymns and other church music. It was at Oakwood that he learned and began writing Gospel music. He was nominated in 1988 and 1989 for the Grammy Award.

  Phipps was a member of the 1976 class at Oakwood. He went on to Andrews University where he obtained the M.Div. degree. He has pastored in Maryland and Washington, D.C., and traveled extensively ministering to thousands in music and the spoken word.

  His ministry on Sabbath, March 9, to the Oakwood family was a "balm in Gilead," as he sang favorites like "Remember Me," "He's Able," "The Potter," "A Love Like This," "It is Well With My Soul," and "We Give You the Praise."

Ricky Little

Angela Brown

Wayne Bucknor

In his commentary, Pastor Phipps told the story of his offering one of his cassette recordings to a lady while in flight and encouraging her to listen to it. At the airport, she thanked him for the soul-lifting music. She did listen to it on the plane. The lady, Natalie Wood, suffered a fatal accident soon after that. Perhaps that was the Spirit's last appeal to her through the music ministry of Pastor Phipps.

Elder Phipps ended the evening's program with an altar call, and hundreds responded in heart, body, and spirit!

Musical Vesper Series, October 5, 1996

The second program in the Musical Vesper Series featured Angela Brown, soprano; Ricky Little, Tenor; and Wayne Bucknor, Pianist, at the College Church on October 5, at 4:30 p.m.

- **Angela Brown** blossomed as a soloist at Oakwood College where she studied with **Ginger Beazley.** After graduation from Oakwood, she attended Indiana University School of Music. There she studied with the internationally renowned soprano, Virginia Zeani.

  Ms. Brown was a 1994 Regional Finalist of the Metropolitan Opera Auditions, and a 1995 Semi-finalist of the International Marian Anderson Competition.

  Featured across the United States and abroad, Ms. Brown has appeared as soloist with the Memphis Symphony, Cincinnati Pops, and the Indianapolis Symphony. Her vocal career has flourished since her debut at the Kennedy Center.

- **Ricky Little** holds the B.A. in music from Oakwood College and the M.A. and D.M.A. from The Ohio State University. His doctorate is in vocal performance. He made his vocal debut in Dobbiaco, Italy, in 1984 as soloist with the Aims

Orchestra at the Gustav Mahler Memorial Music Week. He has performed in other countries including Holland, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, France, Luxemburg, Belgium, Spain, Austria, Canada, and Bermuda.

Little directed the Aeolian ensemble during his five and a half years at Oakwood College. During those years the Aeolians sang at the UNCF annual banquet in New York, appeared on ABC's GOOD MORNING AMERICA, and traveled to many states and Bermuda where the prime minister and governor of the island attended certain performances.

Dr. Little is currently on the music faculty at Morehead State University in Kentucky.

- **Wayne Bucknor** holds the B.S. degree in music from Oakwood College and the M.A. from Alabama A & M University. He is producer and songwriter of various musical works.

  Bucknor has been a winner of the National Piano Guild Competition for several years and a recipient of the Michael Jackson and Alma Blackmon scholarships. Currently, he is an instructor in the Oakwood College Music Department.

PROGRAMME

Fantasia Impromptu ..... F. Chopin
Wayne Bucknor, Piano

Five Mystical Songs ..... R. Vaughan Williams
Easter
I Got Me Flowers
Love Bade Me Welcome
Antophon
Ricky Little, Baritone
Aeolian Ensemble, Lloyd Mallory, Director

Thank You Medley ..... arr. Wayne Bucknor
Wayne Bucknor, Piano

Were You There? (Traditional) .....arr. Brown/Webb

OFFERING

Alleluia ..... Bill Pionell
Angela Brown, Soprano
Ricky Little, Barbitone

Witness .....Hall Johnson
Angela Brown, Soprano

Lord How Come Me Here? ..... Arr. Brown
Angela Brown, Soprano

Ride On King Jesus (traditional) ..... arr. Brown
Angela Brown, Soprano

Lillian Redcross
Accompanist

T. Marshall Kelly

Edrene Malcolm

Musical Vesper Series, November 2, 1996

- **T. Marshall Kelly** was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He is an alumnus of Oakwood Academy and Oakwood College where he sang in the Oakwood College Male Chorus and the Velvetone Quartet.

  The singing evangelist pastored for 28 years and taught Bible for 15 at Oakwood Academy. His travels have taken him throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Guinea, Fiji, and Ghana.

  Elder Kelly's rich and appealing bass has been preserved on three albums: "It Takes Everything to Serve the Lord," "Songs to Remember," and "Never Doubt His Love."

  Elder and Mrs. Kelly are the parents of two children.

- **Edrene Malcolm** is a native of Warwick, Bermuda. She graduated from the Bermuda Institute where she won awards in islandwide musical competitions. At Oakwood College, she was a member of various music ensembles directed by Dr. Jon Robertson. She also studied voice privately with the nationally renowned Alyne Dumas Lee. She is the mother of five children.

  Edrene graduated from Oakwood in 1972 with majors in English and Behavioral Science. She holds the M.Ed. from Alabama A & M University in Speech Pathology. She has taught English at Oakwood for 20 years, and served as writing specialist in the Center for Academic Advancement.

  Her melodious voice, sincere demeanor, and devotion place her in demand to sing at weddings, worship, funerals, and other special functions here and abroad.

The Programme

Edrene Malcolm and **Lillian Redcross** have worked on music pieces together for many years producing unique arrangements of hymns that move the soul. This was evident in the first two numbers– "Prayer" and "In the Garden."

T. Marshall Kelly followed with

"He Was Found Worthy" and

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Here Kelly took a moment to remind the audience that God has a time for everything. "God has a time for you," Kelly said. "You will get everything God wants you to get," he continued, "but not until His Time."

His next song was, "In His Time":

In His Time,
In His Time
He makes all things beautiful
In His time.
Lord, please show me everyday
As you're teaching me Your way
That you do just what You say,
In Your time.

His final song in this section was "Until Then."

The program continued with Edrene rendering three beautiful pieces:

"Give Me Jesus"

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

"Love Lifted Me"

In his second appearance, Elder Kelly sang "It is Just a Test." The two artists then did a duet entitled "Marvelous Grace."

Following the intermission, Edrene rendered two numbers: "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" and "It is Well With My Soul."

Elder Kelly then went to the piano to accompany himself (much to the delight of the audience) as he presented two favorites:

"Never Doubt His Love" and

"It Takes Everything to Serve the Lord."

In the end, the artists invited the congregation to sing with them "City of Light" by **Walter Kisack.** Thus another successful Centennial event ended on a very high note as we, by faith, make our sojourn toward The City of Light.

Accompanists: Winifred Rivers and Jimmy Wilson

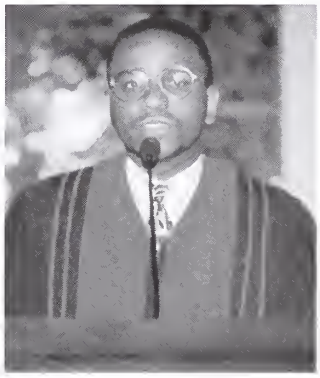
Mr. Jimmy Wilson, Minister of Music at the College Church, and Mrs. Winifred Rivers have given years of service to the music ministry of the Adventist community locally, nationally, and internationally.

The Oakwood College Church

The College Church was the center for numerous Centennial events.

This elegant structure was built under the leadership of Pastor Eric C. Ward. He served for almost a "quarter of a century," from 1973-1995.

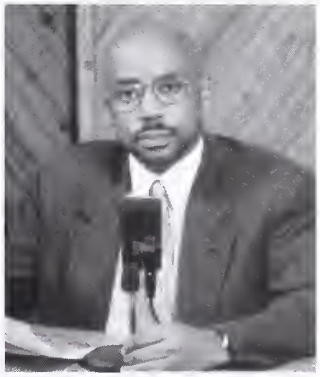
Eric C. Ward



Leslie N. Pollard

Pastor Leslie N. Pollard succeeded Elder Ward in 1995, and led the church family through the centennial year celebration. He accepted a call to Loma Linda University in 1997. Pastor John Nixon and his associate, Pastor Charles Tapp were called to fill the vacancies created by the departures of Pastors Leslie Pollard and Michael Harpe (assistant).

John Nixon



Charles Tapp

The College Fund/UNCF Banquet, VBC North Hall

Chapter 6

HOMECOMING 1996

An estimated 30,000 people converged on the City of Huntsville on the weekend of April 4-7, 1996, for the annual Homecoming and celebration of Oakwood's 100th anniversary, which had begun six months earlier and would continue until November 16, 1996.

UNCF Banquet

Weekend activities began with the sold-out annual College Fund/UNCF banquet which was "an evening of elegance." **Ms. Marcia Burnette** introduced the master of ceremonies, **Wintley Phipps**, minister and two-time Grammy Award nominee, who appeared on stage singing. Greetings were extended to the more than 1,200 guests by Huntsville Mayor, **Steve Hettinger**; State Representative, **Laura Hall**; Councilman **Richard Showers**; UNCF Alabama Development office, **Trina Banks**; SDA Church officials **Calvin B. Rock** and **Joseph McCoy**.

Music throughout the evening was provided by Oakwood alumni **Clifton Davis**, actor and minister; **Angela Brown**, 1994 Regional Finalist of the Metropolitan Opera Auditions; and world-renowned multiple Grammy Award winners–**Take-6**.

Two local citizens (now deceased), **Dr. L. H. Bonner**, former dean of the Graduate School of Alabama A & M University, and **Dr. Chessie Harris** received special awards for outstanding community and humanitarian service.

- The keynote speaker, **William H. Gray III**, president and CEO of the College Fund/UNCF, was introduced by **Benjamin F. Reaves**, President of Oakwood College.

Marcia Burnette

Wintley Phipps
MC

Clifton Davis

Take-6

Gray began his presentation with an invitation to pause momentarily in memory of two outstanding African-American leaders who had passed during the week. **Carl Stokes**, according to Gray, was the first African-American to become an elected mayor of a predominantly White major city–Cleveland, Ohio. **Ron Brown**, who died in a terrible plane crash, was the first African-American to head a major political party. He also went on to become secretary of the Department of Commerce and did a splendid job in moving it forward into the spotlight of excellence.

William H. Gray, III

Gray said that we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before, although most of the time we do not know the names of those on whose shoulders we stand. He added that we need to look back and remember our history–how we got over. "If you don't know how you got over," Gray said, "or where you came from, or what your past is, you will have no sense of the present, no hope of the future, or how to deal with the vicissitudes of the future.

L. H. Bonner (r) accepts award from Bobby Harrison

Chessie Harris

As we come tonight here in Huntsville as a family, we pause, reflect and remember, because it is a special occasion. **It is the 100th year of a great educational institution, Oakwood College."**

Gray stressed the fact that when Oakwood started in 1896, a retrenchment was taking place in America. He said:

> Let me remind you of what it was like 100 years ago. It had been a springtime of hope, a symbol of faith and belief. The civil war had ended; slavery had ended, and all the walls were down. Black people were free and they were elected to Congress. They had businesses, and suddenly, in the 1890's, retrenchment started with the Supreme Court talking about separate but equal.
>
> In 1896, people could already see the bright light of freedom, opportunity, and equality beginning to dim as the old voices were beginning to realign into a new economic, political, and social reality, and the courts, the highest courts in the land, were being used to announce the ending of that springtime.

Gray continued to point out that folks of faith got together and established a school in which young men and women could get an opportunity to obtain an education. "So, in a dark moment of history," Gray said, "our forebearers had hope and established Oakwood College."

The speaker noted that between **1867** and **1896** there were 20 African-American members in the House of Representative, and two in the Senate. We lost that kind of representation until just

about six years ago. Some of the same winds of retrenchment, according to Gray, are sweeping across this land today, designed to roll back the clock and to close the circle.

Gray said that Oakwood as well as all member institutions of the College Fund/UNCF are needed now more than ever before because they know, through long experience, how to educate their own better than anyone else. He emphasized the three powers necessary for success:

1. Soul Power or Faith which makes one God's child.
2. Education–the most powerful change agent and best welfare reform.
3. Knowledge–which gives power to do most anything.

The College Fund/UNCF provides opportunities for students to acquire all three. As such, we should not hesitate to invest in an institution which changes lives for the better. UNCF schools provide the means whereby young people can lift themselves up and when they do so, they lift up others and their community as well, Gray said.

Gray ended his inspiring address with lines from the poem by Maya Angelo–"I Rise," and challenged Oakwood to keep on rising. He received a standing ovation.

Kenny Anderson

Speaker with Mrs. Jan Ross

Gray, Reaves, Mayor Hettinger

Wilatra Awoniyi, Shirley Iheanacho, Moses Awoniyi, and Patricia Small

Chlora A. Jones
President of the
National Alumni
Association

Homecoming Events

Friday, April 5

A variety of events occurred throughout the day, including a golf tournament, educational workshops, sales, and seminars.

At 6:30 p.m., there was a vast gathering at the VBC Arena for the vesper program. A mini concert preceded the vesper hour featuring the Brothers of Nashville, Women's Trio, **Joseph Follette**, and Shirley Sims. Music for the vesper program was provided by the Breath of Life Quartet, Marlene Riggs, and Noelette Leader.

The major attraction for the evening was the anticipated message from God through **Captain Barry C. Black** of the U. S. Navy.

At 8:00 p.m., a musical extravaganza featured various Oakwood groups (past and present) at the VBC, while on campus **Elder E. E. Cleveland** and former president **Calvin B. Rock** spoke to large gatherings.

Sabbath, April 6

The words of Board chairman **Alfred C. McClure** best describe the scene in the VBC Arena at the 11 o'clock worship service on Sabbath, April 6. McClure said:

> This is clearly the place to be today, and clearly the place to have been during some period of these 100 years. I doubt that there has been a gathering of Adventists in North America to exceed this group in number outside of a General Conference Session, and there have been very few General Conference sessions that would outnumber this.

Ms. Chlora Jones, the national alumni president extended welcome to the vast audience and thanked all who helped to make it happen, especially the local coordinator **Ms. Dorothy Smith.**

Greetings followed from **President Benjamin F. Reaves; G. Ralph Thompson**, Secretary of the General Conference; **Malcolm Gordon** of the Southern Union; Congresswoman **Sheila Jackson Lee, Mayor Steve Hettinger,** and several other Church leaders. **Pastor Leslie Pollard** presented a special award to **Elder C. E. Moseley** for his long years of service to Oakwood and the SDA Church.

Former and current Aeolians/College Choir members formed a mass choir directed by **Dr. Alma Blackmon** and **Mrs. Joni Pierre-Louis.** In addition to the responses, the choir sang "Hallelujah" from the *Mount of Olives* by Beethoven and "Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit," arr. by William Dawson for the worship service.

Youth Service

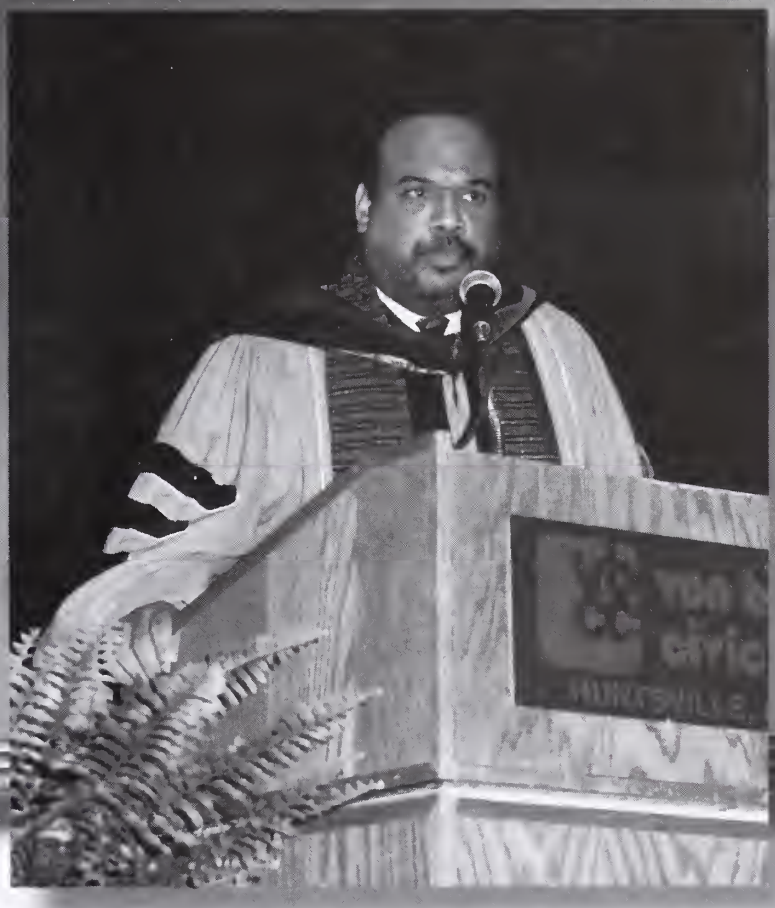
More than 2,000 young people occupied the Concert Hall for the Youth Service. Music was provided by Voices of Triumph and Dynamic Praise. **Pastor James Doggette** of the Department of Religion and Theology was the speaker.

Keynote Address

Inside the crowded Arena, **Pastor Walter Pearson** presented the Sabbath sermon. He based his message on the text taken from Amos 7:14-17 and entitled it "Mixed Messages." Here Amaziah, Priest of Bethel, was cooperating with Jeroboam II, King of Israel, who kept up idol worship of golden calves set up by Jeroboam I so that his subjects would not have to go to Jerusalem to worship the true God. When Amos prophesied against the ultimate fall of Jeroboam, Amaziah complained and advised Amos to return to Judah. Amos, however, prophesied Amaziah's death and the tragic end of his wife and family. Here then was a high priest cooperating with a king who was working against God, sending, as it were, "Mixed Messages."

Friday Vespers
Barry C. Black

Youth Service
James Doggette



Keynote Speaker
Walter L. Pearson

Pearson reminded alumni that when they put emphasis on achievement and success forgetting that it was God who enabled them to come from "rags to riches," they are sending to others "mixed messages."

Thousands responded to his call to rededication. "He touched my heart," remarked **Ms. Shirley Verrett** who opened the Centennial Celebration six months earlier and had returned to conduct some Master Classes on campus.

Traffic Control: Thanks to our transportation and security departments which operated an effective parking and shuttle system. Within a short time after dismissal, the people were able to separate for lunch across the city without traffic congestion.

Awards Ceremony: At 6:00 p.m., the Arena was again occupied for the Awards Ceremony. In addition to the usual awards, more than 100 alumni received special Centennial Certificates of Excellence. They were nominated by their peers for significant contribution to society and Oakwood College.

Oakwood College

Huntsville, Alabama

To Whom These Letters Come Greetings:

The Administration of the College on the recommendation of the Centennial Steering Committee and the Office of College Relations and by the authority in them vested have awarded the

Centennial Certificate of Excellence

to

Delbert W. Baker
DeWitt Banfield
Rosa T. Banks
Vertis Barnes
Turner C. Battle III
Vincent Beale
Helen W. Beckett
Alma Blackmon
Donald F. Blake
Frances Blake
Charyle Mae Bliss
Frances Bliss
Maude Bookhardt
Inez L. Booth
C. E. Bradford
Stennett Brooks
Virginia M. Brown
Curtis Burton
Earl Calloway
Charles Campbell, DDS
Anne H. Cantrell
Eugene Carter
Robert H. Carter
E. E. Cleveland
Emerson A. Cooper
F. N. Crowe
James Darby
Udell L. Darville
Frank Davis
Ruth Faye Davis
Minneola L. Dixon
Charles E. Dudley
Etta M. Dudley
Victor A. Duncan, MD
George R. Earle
Margaret C. Earle
Delores K. Etter
Anne Galley
Ruth Mosby Greene
Frank W. Hale, Jr.
Chessie Harris
David Hearon
C. D. Henri
William J. Hicks, MD
Ruth D. Jessup
Ceola Jones
Chlora A. Jones
Frank L. Jones
Horace L. Jones
Ruby L. Jones
W. C. Jones
Thompson V. Kay
T. Marshall Kelly
Walter Kisack
Clyde E. Lee
Sarah M. Lester
Jannith L. Lewis
Connie S. Mayfield
Howard McHenry
Anthony Medley
Garland J. Millett
C. E. Moseley
Phillip Morgan
Louise C. Murphy
Myrtle Gates Murphy
Richard S. Norman
Elizabeth J.Nunez
Eurydice Osterman
Gaines R. Partridge
Lee A. Paschal
Ruth Paschal
Finster Paul, MD
Ralph P. Peay
Susie Perry
Joni Pierre-Louis
Fred A. Pullins
Judge Eardell Rashford
Benjamin F. Reaves
Edna P. Roache
Harrell Robinson, MD
Sandy Robinson
Calvin B. Rock
Clara Rock
E. E. Rogers
Stephen P. Ruff
Mary Hood Scott
Katie G. Settle
H. D. Singleton
Mary L. Singleton
Dorothy H. Smith
Ruth B. Stokes
Vivian M. Stokes
Ward Sumpter
Samuel Thomas, Sr.
Dorothy C. Thorn
Lovey Verdun
Eric C. Ward
Mervyn A. Warren
Ruth D. Wheeler
Emerson E. Whidbee
DeWitt Williams
Edna Lett Williamson
J. P. Willis
R. L. Woodfork
Thomasine L. Wright

For outstanding personal achievement and significant contribution to society and the Huntsville Community generally, and Oakwood College in particular, with all the distinction and honor thereunto appertaining.

Given at Huntsville, in the State of Alabama, on the sixteenth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-six

Benjamin F. Reaves	Chlora A. Jones	Roy E. Malcolm
President of the College	President, National Alumni	Chair, Centennial Steering Committee

Other Awards:

Alumna of the Year	Mrs. Gloria Singleton
Alumnus of the Year	Donald F. Blake, Ph.D.
Family of the Year	Elder J. P. Willis
President's Award	Judge Eardell Rashford

The celebration continued on Saturday night with more music performances in the Arena and Concert Hall. On campus and in other locations in the city, basketball games drew large numbers of young people.

Sunday, April 7

The campus was the scene of numerous activities. Beneath large tents, there were vendors with numerous creative items and keepsakes. Centennial memorabilia such as afghans, figurines, videos, Oakwood History Book, mugs, etc., were being sought by former Oakwoodites, many of whom had not returned to the campus for years.

There were also professional meetings, sports activities, breakfasts, and business sessions campus-wide.

Historic Marker

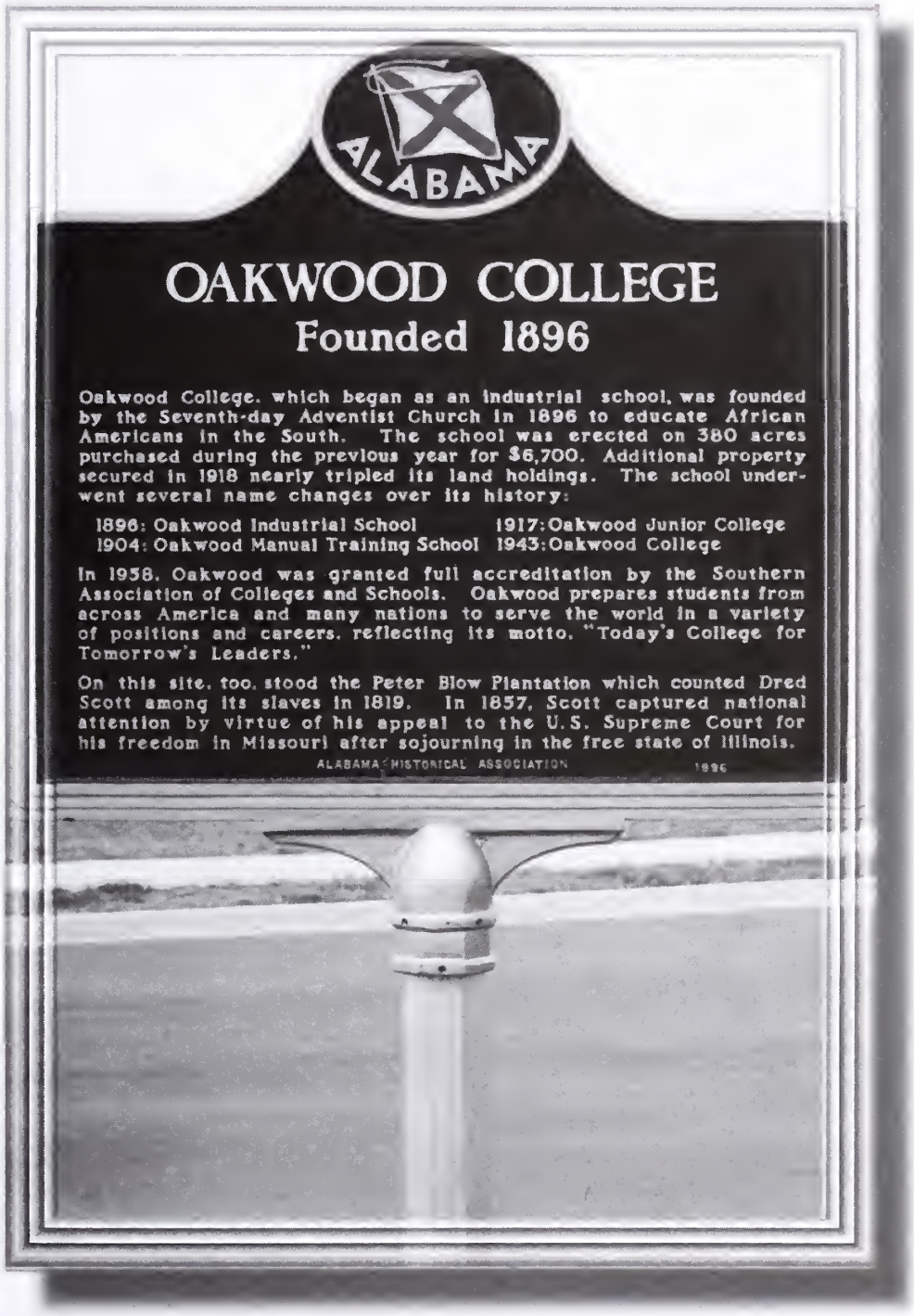
The Centennial theme song begins with these words:

> There's a marker on the road
> That says 100 years
> Since we began our journey. . . .

This prophecy became a reality at 2:15 p.m., on Sunday of the Centennial Homecoming weekend. Much credit is due **Mrs. Minneola Dixon, Archivist**, who coordinated this event. The marker was installed at Sparkman Drive and Adventist Boulevard. It was then unveiled by **Councilman Richard Showers** and accepted by

Alex Luttrel and **Jim Lee** of Huntsville/Madison County Historical Society, and the Alabama Historical Association, respectively.

So, on a very historic weekend, it was very fitting to have Oakwood College recognized as an historic site in the great State of Alabama.


ALABAMA
OAKWOOD COLLEGE
Founded 1896
Oakwood College, which began as an industrial school, was founded by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1896 to educate African Americans in the South. The school was erected on 380 acres purchased during the previous year for $6,700. Additional property secured in 1918 nearly tripled its land holdings. The school underwent several name changes over its history:
1896: Oakwood Industrial School
1904: Oakwood Manual Training School
1917: Oakwood Junior College
1943: Oakwood College
In 1958, Oakwood was granted full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Oakwood prepares students from across America and many nations to serve the world in a variety of positions and careers, reflecting its motto, "Today's College for Tomorrow's Leaders."
On this site, too, stood the Peter Blow Plantation which counted Dred Scott among its slaves in 1819. In 1857, Scott captured national attention by virtue of his appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court for his freedom in Missouri after sojourning in the free state of Illinois.
ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
1996

Archivist Mrs. Minneola Dixon presents background information about the college.

L-R: Norman Shapiro, Joyce Smith, Alex Luttrell, Jim Lee, Benjamin F. Reaves, Minneola Dixon, Richard Showers, J. Rison Jones, Clarence J. Barnes.

Economic Impact

Not just Oakwood College, but the City of Huntsville and North Alabama benefitted from the thousands of alumni and friends who visited our city during the Centennial Homecoming weekend. The following was released by the Huntsville/Madison County Convention and Visitors Bureau:

> "'The Convention and Visitors Bureau was delighted with how well the centennial celebration came off. It was good to see that Huntsville could accommodate so many people for a convention this size,' said **Judy Ryals**, bureau executive director.
>
> "'Hotels, restaurants and retailers showed their support of Oakwood with signs and posters,' she said.
>
> "'Hotels in the Huntsville area were at capacity during the weekend and the Oakwood event filled hotels in the surrounding area as well,' said **Debbie Roderick**, bureau director of conventions. 'We hope that those who attended this year will decide to return every year because the college puts together a good program.'
>
> "Roderick estimates that the economic impact of the 30,000 attendees was approximately $9 million to North Alabama, with $7.5 million spent in Madison County." —*April 9, 1996*

By sunset Sunday, visitors and guests were heading home while vendors folded their tents and reluctantly stole away. This marked the end of activities for Homecoming 1996, but for the year-long Centennial Celebration, "the best was yet to come."

GRAND MARSHAL

Sandra F. Price, Ed.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Chapter 7

THE CENTENNIAL CLASS

The Historic Centennial Class of 1996 was the largest in the history of the college. Three hundred and eighteen diplomas and certificates were issued, including 29 to graduates in the newly installed adult degree completion program in organizational management.

The class chose the talented **Jennifer L. Gill Fordham** as their president. Other officers were:

Jennifer L. Gill Fordham
Class President

Owen Gardner, Vice President

Roycelyn Mentor, Secretary

Diane Seaton, Assistant Secretary

Sonya Hartley, Treasurer

John Scott, Chaplain

Constantine Hudson, Sergeant-at-Arms

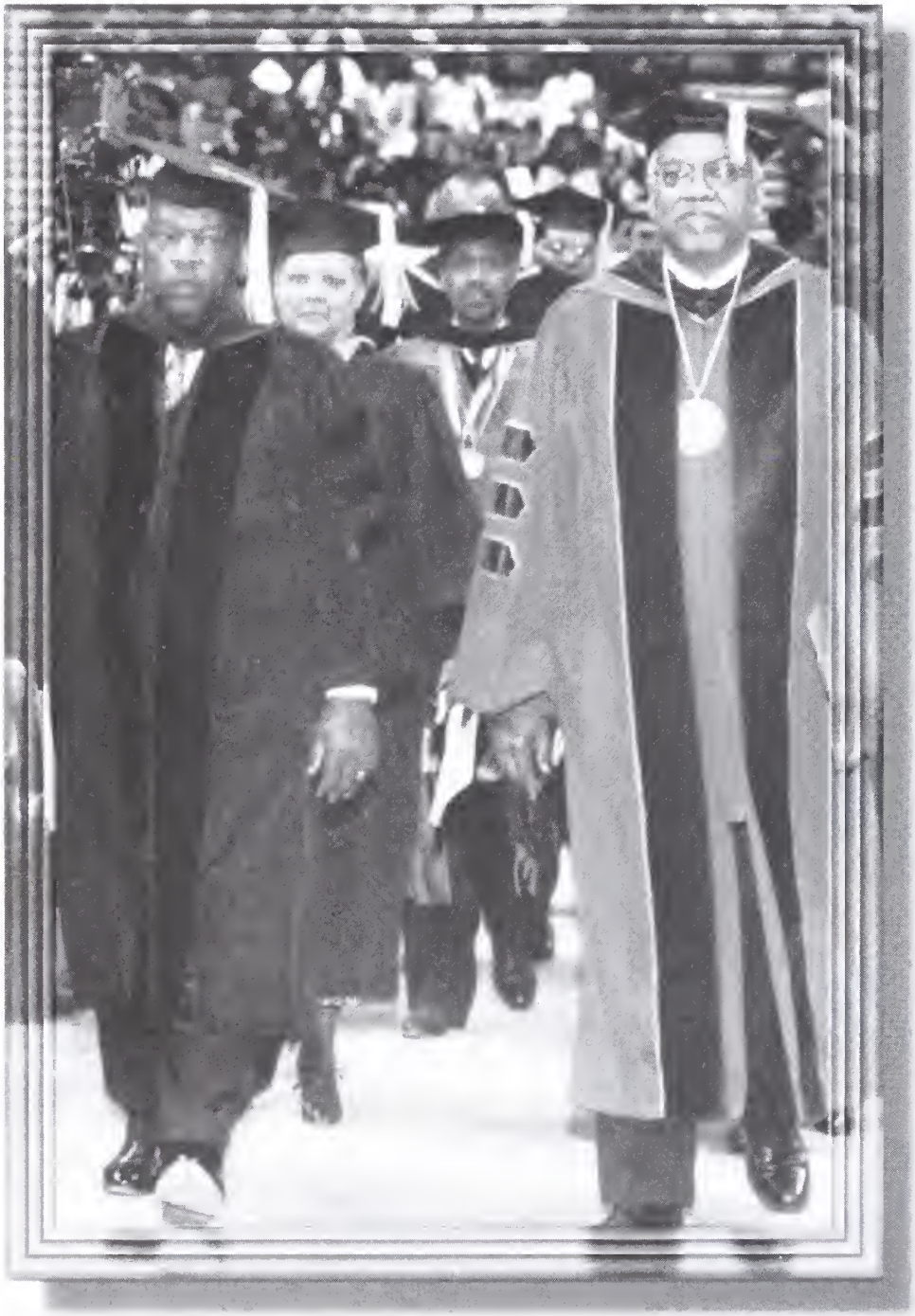
Dionne Storey, Parliamentarian

Mignon Lake, Public Relations

Colin Sandy, Assistant Public Relations

Tracy White, Social Coordinator

Dana Winston, Music Coordinator



The class selected the following aim, motto, colors, and sponsors:

Aim: To soar beyond any earthly aspiration to achieve our eternal destiny.

Motto: The secret of success is to learn to accept the impossible, to do without the indispensable, and to bear the intolerable–*Nelson Mandela*

Colors: Green and Blue

Sponsors: Sylvia J. Barnes and Kenneth LaiHing

Centennial Graduation Speakers

The class gave careful consideration to the names suggested as speakers for the various events of commencement weekend 1996. These individuals were selected:

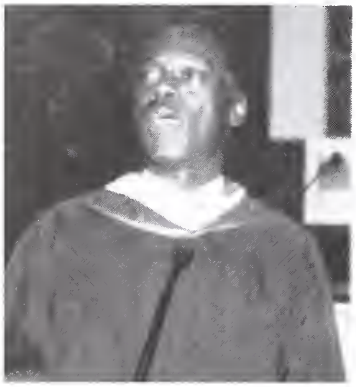
- **Willie L. Taylor**
  Pastor Taylor graduated from Oakwood College in 1972 with a major in theology. Later he obtained the M.Div. from Andrews Theological Seminary. He has held leadership positions in his home conference–Southeastern. He was Secretary of the conference when invited to present the consecration address at 8:00 p.m., on Friday, April 26, 1996, at the College Church. He is now president.

- **Donald L. McPhaull**
  A former National Director of Promotions and Marketing for Capitol/EMI/Liberty Records in Hollywood, McPhaull moved freely within the movie and music industry arena with success. Then he met the Lord and was soon baptized. Two years later he moved with his family to Huntsville and enrolled in theology at Oakwood College. He also served the college as general manager of WOCG-FM Radio.

  Since leaving Oakwood, McPhaull has pastored in Kansas City, MO.; Washington, DC; Englewood, NJ; and Philadelphia, PA. McPhaull is now pastoring in Brooklyn, NY. He has also traveled extensively on

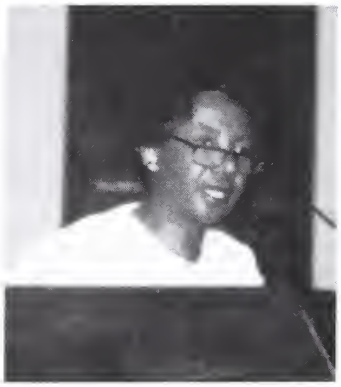
THE CANDIDATES

THE SPEAKERS



Consecration

Baccalaureate



Pinning Ceremony

CANDIDATES, Cont'd

CLASS OFFICERS

assignment at home and abroad. He was the baccalaureate speaker on Sabbath, April 27, at the Von Braun Center Arena.

- **Bettye F. Berry**
  Berry was speaker for the Nursing Department Pinning Ceremony at 4:30 p.m., in the College Church. She is a graduate of Grady Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Tuskegee University, Indiana University, and the University of Alabama. Dr. Berry is a top administrator at Lawson State Community College in Birmingham.

- **John R. Lewis**
  Lewis is nationally known as a Civil Rights leader. From early he became interested in the cause for equal rights. He was a keynote speaker at the March on Washington in August 1963.

  Lewis is a congressman from the 5th District in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed him to direct ACTION, which is the federal agency of more than 250,000 volunteers.

  Lewis was born the son of sharecroppers just outside of Troy, Alabama, where he grew up and attended segregated public schools. While yet a mere youth, he became a strong leader in the Civil Rights Movement, and was considered one of the "Big Six" proponents of human rights in the sixties. He was arrested 40 times, suffered many physical attacks and injuries. Still he remained a devoted advocate of nonviolence.

Presidential Welcome

The large graduating class attracted many visitors to Huntsville and Oakwood College, giving the occasion the appearance of another alumni homecoming. **President Benjamin F. Reaves** therefore designed this special welcome:

- To all who share with us this memorable weekend, Welcome! Welcome to the Centennial Commencement that is a celebration of the past, the present, and the future achievements of both Oakwood College and the Centennial Class of '96. The accomplishments of this class have grown out of the soil of an intentionally Christian, rigorously challenging, academic experience. This signal occasion honors their triumph.

  To the Class of 1996:

  On this your Centennial Commencement Weekend,

  With joy

  Oakwood salutes your outstanding achievement;

  With regret

  Oakwood bids farewell to your winsome presence;

  With confidence

  Oakwood anticipates your continued success;

  With pride

  Oakwood welcomes you as Distinguished Alumni of

  "Today's College for Tomorrow's Leaders."

Commencement

Well over 6,000 people occupied the VBC Arena as administrators, faculty, and candidates for graduation joined in the procession, all in their academic regalia as the organ filled the house with the music of Edward Elgar's *Pomp & Circumstance*, followed by the invocation by **Chaplain S. Hayward Cox,** and *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing* by the congregation.

President Reaves introduced the speaker, **Congressman John R. Lewis** of the United States House of Representatives. This was Lewis' first visit to Huntsville. He congratulated the college for its 100th anniversary. In his travels he had met many people who are alumni of Oakwood College.

Congressman John R. Lewis

To the candidates Lewis gave commendation for distinguishing themselves in the quest for academic excellence. Such preparation, he said, will serve well as they take their places as participants and leaders in the effort to enhance the dignity of all people.

The Congressman noted that it was fitting for commencement to take place on a spring night because spring is a season of new beginning, a starting point, a time to renew and rekindle our faith. He added:

> You, the Class of 1996, are not the only one to have learned, grown, and changed in the past few years. This has been one of the most traumatic and moving periods in recent history. We have seen nations rise and we have seen nations fall. We have seen all humanity aroused including the homeless, powerless, underfed, underpaid, and the unlearned.

Lewis said that we are in the midst of a worldwide revolution–a revolution of ideas; a revolution of values. The struggle is waged in every nation, among every people, by peaceful means, propaganda, diplomacy, financial pressure, strike, ballots, and bullets.

Lewis told about his early life in southeast Alabama where his parents were sharecroppers. At age 4, his parents paid $300 for 110 acres where his 82-year-old mother and a brother still live and hope to move into a new home soon. His father had a dream–a vision of things getting better by and by.

During those old days he would not have believed the possibility of his becoming a congressman. He attended segregated public schools and lived in an atmosphere built on hate, greed, and racism.

At age 15, he became acquainted with Martin Luther King, Jr., and became part of the movement in which they were willing to go to jail and give their life for a higher purpose. "We had a dream," Lewis said, "to eliminate racism, and build a beloved community." They believed in nonviolence.

Those beliefs and actions changed our nation so that years later black, white, and colored signs of segregation are no more.

Lewis challenged the Class of 1996 to learn from the past by being willing to nurture, cultivate, and provide the type of leadership that will give vision and sustenance to the all-inclusive world community.

> You the Class of 1996 have a mandate, you have a mission, you have a moral obligation to work for social and economic justice. You have a mandate from God to love your neighbors even as you love yourself. . . . In a real sense, you the Class of 1996 must become the conscience of your country. Your task is not an easy one, and may not be completed in your lifetime; but you must be prepared and dedicated to the struggle ahead.
>
> Keep the faith;
>
> Don't give up;
>
> Keep your eyes on the prize.

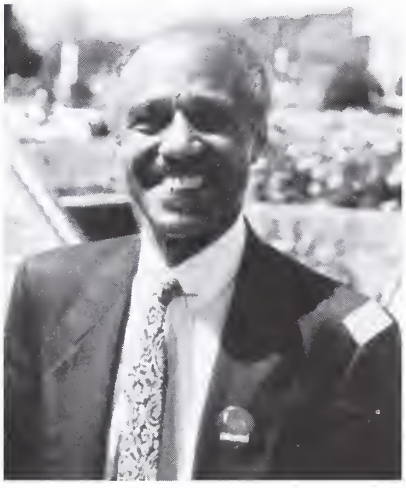
President Jennifer L. Gill Fordham, '96, responded on behalf of the Centennial Class.

Following the conferring of degrees, the new graduates were inducted into the National Alumni Association by **Chlora A. Jones,** President.

As if to console those who may have come short in meeting qualifying graduation requirements as well as to prepare graduates who will encounter setbacks in the real world, President Reaves had special advice which included his famous quote:

I'm hurt! I'm hurt!
Sir Andrew Barton cried.
I'm hurt, but I'm not slain.
I'll lay me down and bleed awhile,
And then get up and fight again!

Yearbook Dedicated to:



S. Hayward Cox, D.D.
Chaplain

Connect-5
L-R: Durand Carrington, Robert Wells, Paul Bodie,
Dean Dennis, Jovan Times (seated).

Chapter 8

SPREADING THE CENTENNIAL WORD

Connect-5 on the Road

Centennial events had reached a very high level of excellence since the grand opening in November 1995. The 1996 homecoming and commencement exercises generated excitement and enthusiasm. How would we keep the momentum going during the summer months of June, July, and August? The original plan was to engage the service of the Aeolians, traveling to various cities giving musical and dramatic presentations on the history and development of Oakwood College. Before this idea was developed, we became acquainted with the group Connect-5.

The group of five young men from south Florida where they grew up and sang together for several years, consisted of **Durand Carrington, Jovon Times, Robert Wells, Paul Bodie, and Dean Dennis**. Their manager **Steve King** remained in Florida, but later moved back to Huntsville. He had attended Oakwood earlier.

The proposal to have Connect-5 travel during the summer months to conference camp meetings and churches received strong approval from **President Benjamin F. Reaves** and college officers. All expenses would be paid by the college, and each member of the group would receive a tuition scholarship of approximately $3,500 for the 1996 fall semester.

The tour (June 14-16) began in the group's own Southeastern Conference where they received enthusiastic welcome and support. The reception was similar on each campground:

South Central	June 21-23
Allegheny West	June 28
Allegheny East	June 30
Lake Region	July 5-7

The year 1996 was also the centennial of the Olympics. In Birmingham, Ala., Olympic personnel were coordinating a series of community programs which included religious presenters and gospel ensembles. The program was called "Alabama at a Glance." Connect-5 was invited to do a 45-minute recital on Sabbath afternoon, July 20, at the Olympic field. During the morning hours, Connect-5 presented a magnificent mini concert at the **Ephesus SDA Church** in Birmingham. **Pastor Joe Grider** was so impressed that he instantly changed the sermon he had intended to deliver so as to speak in accordance with the message of the music and the ministry of Oakwood College. In fact, he called for a special offering which was donated to Connect-5.

At the **Linden Church** in New York, **Pastor Alan Martin** planned an Oakwood College Centennial Weekend, July 25-26, and invited Connect-5 as the featured guest musicians. The Sabbath message was given by the aspiring minister **Paul Goodridge** of Oakwood. From Friday vespers to Sabbath AYS, the members, and young people in particular, were both observers and participants in the inspiring weekend activities.

The **Shiloh Church** in Chicago also sponsored an Oakwood Centennial Alumni Day with **President Benjamin F. Reaves** as speaker for the worship service on Sabbath, August 17. Although Connect-5 had completed their summer tour assignment, Dr. Reaves was very much desirous of having them with him for the occasion. They went and, of course, provided added inspiration to the president's timely message.

At the fall registration, the college awarded approximately $18,000 in scholarships to Connect-5 for a job well done. A significant fall increase in enrollment was due in part to the work of the group during the summer.

One person who took note of the talents of Connect-5 was **Mr. William H. Gray** of the College Fund/UNCF, having heard them at the reception held on campus on October 3, 1996. He flew the group to perform at a special UNCF function in Arizona, April 18-19, 1997. Later he invited them to sing at his church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Knowing that they were struggling to get through college, Mr. Gray took the necessary time and put forth the effort needed to obtain scholarships for them to complete the bachelor's degree as long as they enrolled at a member institution of the College Fund/UNCF.

During the remainder of the Centennial Year, Connect-5 was the voices heard on radio and television announcing upcoming events as they sang:

There's a marker on the road
That says 100 years....
Look to the future
At Oakwood College.

Connect-5—Saddest Note

Paul Jason Bodie (PJ), the primary musician of Connect-5, after battling with a chronic disease for a long while, passed quietly on February 6, 1998. He was 24. Sadness filled the air across the Oakwood campus, because Paul was dearly loved. Attendance at the memorial service held February 11 at the College Church was evidence of the high esteem his colleagues had for him. We all felt confident, however, that he was all right with Jesus.

With Bill Gray

Worship

With General Colin Powell (c) and Chaplain Medley (extreme left)

While lying in bed at the UAB Hospital, Paul wrote these words for a song entitled:

No One Else Like You

O Lord, I love you
You proved to me just what you can do
You proved it on Calvary,
And now I see
That there is no one like you.
No one else,
No one else like you.
No one else,
No one else like you.
I've searched everywhere. (Repeat)

Paul Bodie

Manager Steve King himself, thus far, has replaced Paul, and the group continues.

General Colin Powell
and admirers

Chapter 9

GENERAL COLIN POWELL

A Centennial Superstar

Never before were reporters of the local media so interested and eager to storm the Oakwood Campus for news items as they were on Thursday, October 3, in quest of an interview with **General Colin Powell,** retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. *The Huntsville Times* published a headline which read, "Powell is Superstar with Fans at Oakwood."

The Office of College Relations was in touch with the general three years earlier in an attempt to have him speak at a Centennial function. He replied saying that he was honored by the invitation, but was not able to commit to an engagement at that time. However, the Lord wanted him to visit Oakwood. All we had to do was wait.

The College Fund/UNCF Board holds three meetings annually. Two of these meetings are held on UNCF college campuses. In October 1995, a meeting was to be held in Huntsville. President Reaves, as vice president of the member presidents, was to become president automatically in 1996. The meeting scheduled for Huntsville in 1995 was therefore changed to October 1996. In the meantime, General Colin Powell became a member of the Corporate Board, came to Huntsville, and ultimately to Oakwood College. It was therefore a great honor to meet and greet at the Huntsville Airport, the man we had earlier invited to Oakwood. He flew in with the **Board Chairman, Michael Jordan, CEO of Westinghouse**, one of America's most prominent Fortune 500 companies.

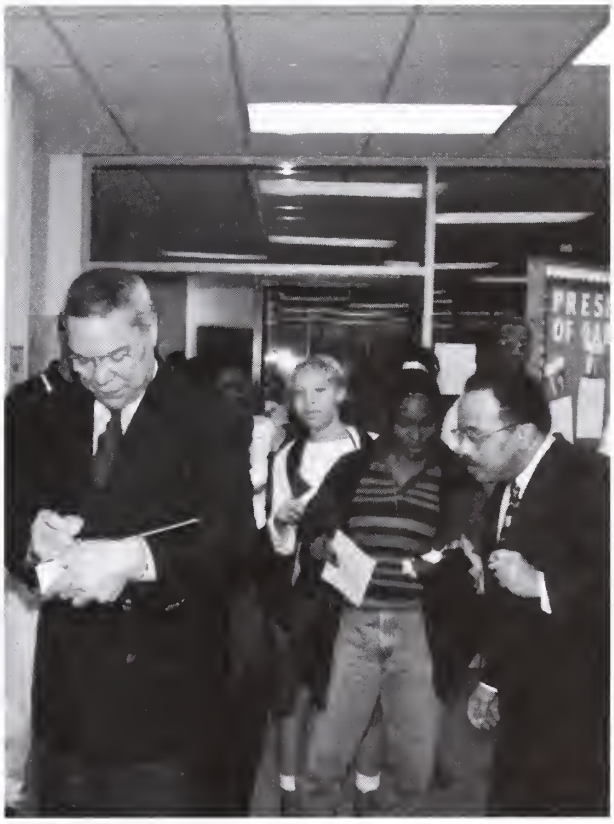
Two Oakwood students asked permission to follow me to the airport "to help with the luggage," according to **Choya Wise** and **Royce Malcolm**. They went and had their pictures taken with the guests in front of Jordan's corporate jet, a top-of-the line Gulfstream IV. Before long the young men were back on campus as "celebrities" among their peers showing photographs with Powell and Jordan.

Choya with General Colin Powell.

Royce with Colin Powell and Michael Jordan.

With Jordan in the passenger seat and Powell in the back seat of the car, I brought the visitors up-to-date on the Centennial and Oakwood College. Jordan wanted to know about my work and background. When I mentioned my native land of Jamaica, Powell immediately exclaimed: "JAMAICA? That's where my folk are from. What parish?" he inquired. "St. Elizabeth," I responded. "That's where my mother is from," Powell said. "What town?" he continued. In response I said: "Mr. Powell, my mother is related to a Powell family in St. Elizabeth. So when I heard about you, I began telling people that you are my cousin." Greatly amused, Powell laughed and replied, "I hear stories like that all the time."

The Meikle Family



When Powell met Lori Meikle (former accountant at Oakwood Academy), he acknowledged that the Meikles of Berry Hill in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica are, indeed his relatives. In fact, Lori showed him a reference he made to that name in his *My American Journey*. Lori's husband, Gairy Paul Meikle, is a native of Berry Hill, Jamaica. So on the Oakwood campus Powell found family connections.

Michael Jordan receives gift from Michele Chester of the Huntsville Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The "Big Three"—Powell, Reaves, and Gray at reception.

Historic Campus Tour

Imagine–32 college and university presidents, the president of Westinghouse, and retired Chairman of the Joint-Chiefs-of-Staff, all at once, taking a guided tour of the Oakwood campus. That's incredible! *The Huntsville Times* reported: ". . . students, faculty and staff alike swarmed around Powell hoping to get just a glimpse, or even better, a handshake or autograph. . . . Powell tried mightily to

T. O. Shaw, Ph.D., President of Shaw University and other UNCF presidents among the students.

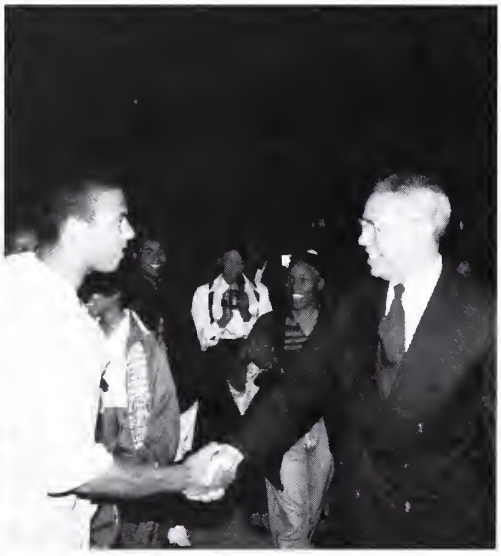
downplay all of the attention. . . . But it was Powell at the head of the Pied Piper-like procession during the campus tour. . . . He had no flute. There was no music.

Channel 48 reporting from the campus

Ms. Darlene Divinity of WAFF Channel 48 responds to an award for keeping Oakwood in high visibility during the Centennial Celebration.

Just a charisma that held young and old in awe" (*Huntsville Times*, 10.4.96).

In the library, chief librarian Dr. Jannith Lewis had a large hard cover copy of Powell's book for his autograph. In the museum Mrs.



Minneola Dixon was thrilled to have so many dignitaries to brief on the development of that segment of the library.

Reception

The tour ended at Wade Hall where the Marriott Food Service had prepared a very attractive setting for a reception of delicious delicacies. Students, faculty, staff, and community leaders were able to meet and greet the various college and university presidents as

ABOVE – Scenes at The Reception

BELOW – Press Conference

well as Powell, Jordan, and Gray. The guests greatly enjoyed the meal and the music provided by the Aeolians and Connect-5.

Special Assembly

The College Church was the scene of a special assembly presided over by William H. Gray, President of the College Fund/UNCF. He introduced Mr. Michael Jordan as one who has supported the College Fund and currently serves as chairman of the Corporate Board of the College Fund/UNCF. Jordan brought greetings on behalf of the Board and expressed pleasure to be at Oakwood. He added that it is essential for Board members to see the schools and people they serve.

Next, Gray introduced General Powell as a new member of the Board, and one who has made all Americans very proud by his achievements.

Powell at Assembly

POWELL'S MESSAGE TO YOUTH

General Powell quickly identified with his audience of hundreds of young people by revealing that his wife is a native of Birmingham, Alabama. He said that he had fallen in love with "this place": Oakwood, the students, president, and beauty of the surroundings. He added that he was impressed by the *fire* in the eyes of the students, the *enthusiasm*, *commitment*, *dedication*, and *goodness* that came pouring out as a result of the nurturing environment they have here with God, and "that touched me deeply."

Upon seeing a group of elementary students in the audience, Powell invited them to stand for an applause as they look forward to being in college someday.

Powell said that he was a soldier for over 35 years, having joined the Army after completing college in 1958. This was the only institution in American society where a Black person could rise (in an integrated setting) to the very top based on hard work, willingness to giving one's very best, limited only by one's dream or ambition. He said by standing on the shoulders of others like the Tuskegee Airmen or Buffalo Soldiers, he was able to go to the very top–Chairman of the Joint-Chiefs-of-Staff.

Powell said that today opportunities are greater than in his day, so Black youth in particular need to seize the moment, work hard, get an education, and do that which is right and avoid the wrong.

Family Values

Powell said that his 650-page book, of which he is proud, has 23 chapters, but that which people question him about most is Chapter I which deals with family values–how he was raised by immigrant parents in New York City. His parents outlined what the family values consisted of.

"Get every bit of education you can."

"Believe in your Country; believe in God."

- **Doing the Right Thing**
  You know the difference between right and wrong. You do what is right whether or not someone is looking at you. You have our training. God has given you a conscience. Do the right thing. Stay away from what is wrong. Drugs are wrong. Doing things that hurt others is wrong.
- **Family Pride**
  When you do wrong, you hurt yourself, but beyond that, worse than that, when you do wrong, you shame yourself. *Most importantly*, you are shaming the family. Now, you can shame yourself, but son, when you start shaming the family, you are in *some kind of trouble*.
- **Believe in God**
  You are not here alone. There is a God. There is a divine providence at work in your life every day, every hour, every minute. Be guided by Him.
- **Work and Education**
  Do what you have to do. Work hard and get every bit of education you can.
- **Believe in Yourself**
  Have self-esteem, self-respect. Be proud of yourself. Do not be the victim of racism. The victim of racism is the racist.
- **Believe In Your Country**
  Believe in the redemptive power of the American Society.
  Believe in America with all your heart and soul.
  Believe that we can change over time.

Powell said that's what he took into the Army with him as his value system, and he is of the opinion that that system is relevant today. "Even though there are far more opportunities to you than there were for me. . . all barriers are not down; we are not where we need to be."

Powell said that he still pushes Affirmative Action because "color still makes a difference in America. I wish it didn't, but it does. Throughout my Army career people asked if I ever encountered racism and I said 'I am sure I did.'"

Asked how he dealt with it, Powell said, "I beat him, outperformed him at every chance, every opportunity."

Powell told the large audience of young people that while we still have a long way to go in America, we are going to get there because:

> We have youngsters like you, gifted educators such as I have seen here at Oakwood, people like the colleagues I have with me today who believe in you and are willing to work for you; willing to get the money you need to support institutions like this [Oakwood] and the other institutions of the College Fund.

Powell told the young people that they have a history and a legacy, and with that history and legacy expectations are being passed on to them from those who precede them. Said Powell:

> We didn't do what we did to come this far for our next generation to *blow* that legacy. . . . That's why I charge you today to keep striving on, get that education, stay away. . . from wrong, believe in yourself, believe in God, and always believe in this marvelous, marvelous country. . . a country we call AMERICA!

Powell's visit and interaction with his audiences left genuine smiles on many faces:

Students . . .

Faculty . . .

Community leaders . . .

Corporate executives and administrators . . .

Media Personnel . . .

and more.

Mae C. Jemison, M.D.

Chapter 10

MAE C. JEMISON, M.D.

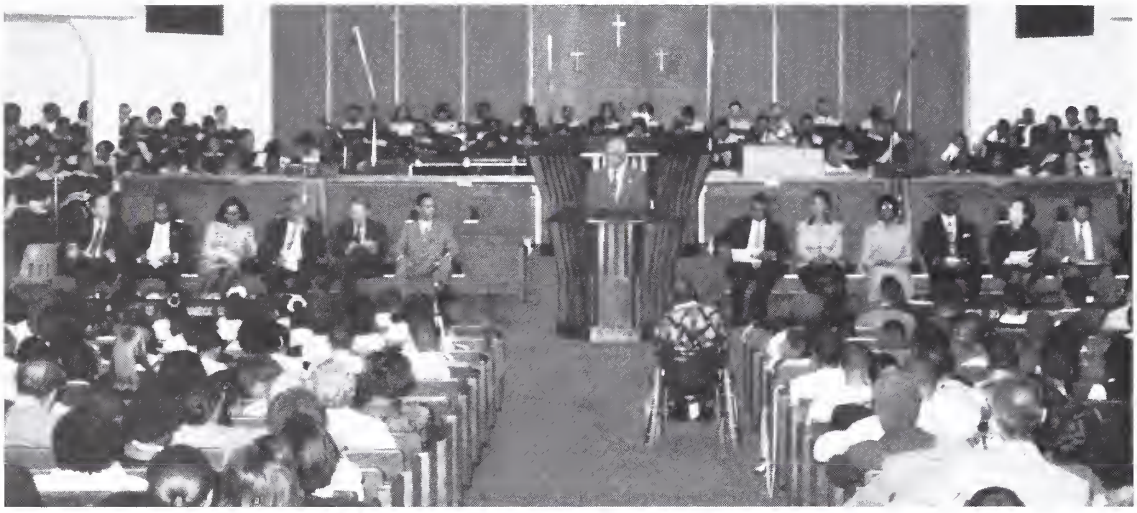
Super Role Model

Oakwood College ladies were elated to note that someone of their gender was included on the list of Centennial celebrities to visit Oakwood. What was even more exciting was the fact that that someone, **Mae C. Jemison, M.D.**, was born only 25 miles from the college in the city of Decatur, Alabama, and internationally renowned as the first African-American woman in space travel.

On Thursday evening, October 24, 1996, announcements about Jemison's centennial presentation drew young and old, students and professors, citizens and community leaders to the College Church where the music of the **Aeolians** under the direction of its new director **Mr. Lloyd B. Mallory, M.A.,** stirred the soul. An invocation was offered by the new chaplain, **Pastor Anthony Medley,** and scripture reading by USM officer, **Gamel Alexander. President Benjamin F. Reaves** welcomed the audience with special words for the very special guest, Dr. Mae Jemison:

- It is an abundant honor for me, on behalf of the Oakwood College Family, to extend to all of you a warm Centennial welcome to this stellar event. In addition, however, I am deeply honored to welcome to this campus and to this occasion our distinguished guest, Dr. Mae Jemison. Welcome, Dr. Jemison! *(Applause)*

  Clearly, it is fitting that as Oakwood College is about to be launched into a second centennium of service, that we have as our speaker tonight,



President Reaves welcomes guests.

Anthony Medley

USM President Wesley Knight (l) makes presentation and extends welcome.

one whose life trajectory has followed an orbit of accomplishment and achievement. And so, Dr.

Jemison, platform associates, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Oakwood College.

Several civic and community leaders had choice words of greetings for both Dr. Jemison and Oakwood College from which the following are excerpts:

City of Huntsville, Mayor's Office:

I bring greetings on behalf of the Honorable Loretta Spencer. She regrets that she could not be here this evening personally as, of course, she is attending the Thursday night City Council meeting. . . . However, Oakwood College Community is indeed a source of pride to the City of Huntsville. Local leaders realize that we are a better community because of the Christian educational environment at Oakwood College, and for that we are grateful. We appreciate the kinds of programs that Oakwood provides for not only the students, but all of the Huntsville Community. . . .

To our special guest, Dr. Mae Jemison, it is indeed an honor to be in your presence this evening, and we thank God for you. We thank God for the kind of *role model* you are–not only for African-Americans, not only for women, young and mature, but for all Americans. . . .

We appreciate that you came here this evening to share in the Oakwood Centennial Celebration. . . .

–Brenda Martin for
Loretta Spencer, Mayor

City of Decatur:

On behalf of the City of Decatur, its governing body and citizens, we are delighted to be able to participate in this event at Oakwood College and to share in this lecture by Dr. Mae Jemison. Dr. Jemison was born in Decatur, and we are very pleased to make that known. She was honored by our city a few years ago, and at

that time she was presented with the Key to the City. So tonight we thought that it would be in our best interest to make her an honorary citizen. We will always have a warm spot in our hearts for Dr. Jemison. . . . It is our pleasure to present this certificate to Dr. Jemison, and we invite you to visit your birthplace and our city at anytime.

Billy Jackson

Councilman, Decatur

Huntsville City Schools:

. . . Greetings from Huntsville City Schools. On behalf of our superintendent, Dr. Ron Saunders, I extend a special welcome to Dr. Mae Jemison and we do thank you for sharing with us this evening. . . . Huntsvillians are proud of all of our astronauts, but we are elated, Dr. Jemison, that you represent us so beautifully, and we thank you for that. We also thank you for sharing with us this evening just as Oakwood College is extending the invitation for our staff and students to be here. We celebrate with the college, and we celebrate also your many achievements. . . . The staff and students of Huntsville City Schools thank Oakwood College for the invitation and we thank you, Dr. Jemison, for charting our course.

Dr. Ruth Yates

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Alabama A & M University:

Continuously by your side, we celebrate with you the momentous occasion of your 100th anniversary. In so many ways our struggles, victories, and future challenges remain parallel. . . .

To Ms. Mae Jemison, may you continue to soar above the mundane plains of mediocrity as you serve as a visible attestation to the verity of the motto of this our city, "The Sky is Not the Limit."

Dr. Oscar Montgomery
Office of the President

Calhoun Community College:

I bring greetings from Calhoun to all of you. I thank Dr. Reaves and all of our friends here tonight for involving Calhoun in this program and allowing us to participate in such an auspicious occasion and to enjoy your centennial celebration. May you have many more, and may we continue to have the kind of partnership and warm relations between our institutions that we have had through the years.

Dr. Jemison, having been born in Decatur, you probably know who we are. We know who you are, too. You are an icon; you are a role model. . . .

I bring you greetings not only from Calhoun tonight, but from the North Alabama Science Center . . . a privately funded organization working in partnership with Calhoun Community College to create a hands-on, dynamic experiential learning center . . . in math and science for K-12. As exciting as that is . . . building does not inspire us to do much. What does inspire us are people, and the successes of people like Dr. Jemison. . . . That's why we are so honored tonight to have you in our community, welcoming you home, welcoming you to North Alabama Youth, and thanking you for serving as a role model. . . . I want to invite you to come to the grand opening and

groundbreaking of the North Alabama Science Center, and to make sure you don't forget it, we have a little memento for you to remember your visit with us tonight.

Richard Carpenter, President

Drake Technical College:

At Drake we believe that education is for application and we are training students and people out of industry and all walks of life to make transition from school to work. . . . It is a blessed opportunity to be here. This morning I had an opportunity to go to Birmingham and start the day off on a high. I had the opportunity to see the president. Now to come here this evening and look at you, and then look here at Dr. Jemison and the rest of these lovely people on this platform, I am so excited. . . .

Dr. Jemison, just to be in your presence and to see what you have done through life and what you continue to do, give each of us another lift in our lives to go a little further.

Harold Batts for
Johnny Harris, President

University of Alabama:

On behalf of the faculty, students, and staff at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, I am pleased to extend a heartfelt welcome to Dr. Mae Jemison and to join this esteemed group for this portion of Oakwood's Centennial Celebration. I know that all Alabama is proud to claim Dr. Jemison as one of its own just as UAH is proud to claim Astronaut John Davis as one of our own. We hope that your accomplishments, Dr. Jemison, can serve to inspire new generations of young Alabamians to aspire to great things, to set lofty goals, and to work hard to achieve them. . . .

You are to be congratulated, Dr. Jemison, for your willingness to be a role model and for sharing your experiences and insights with this audience this evening and with audiences across the country. It is especially fulfilling for me tonight to take part in the 100th anniversary of a loved and respected institution such as Oakwood College.

If you could just harness the propellant from your choir this evening, we really could reach for the stars. Congratulations!

Barrett Carson

University of* Alabama *in Huntsville

NASA:

I can recall watching the downlink from space shuttle SPS47 in September of 1992 on the Chicago Channel WGN. Mission Specialist Dr. Mae Jemison on board as the first woman of color in space, and students throughout the Chicago public school system engaged in an impressive dialogue. I was impressed then at her grasp of all the science experiments she was performing–not just her own–and her ability to communicate that science. I was also impressed by the expression and pride by the teachers, students, and newscasters of Chicago that one of their own, a first in many ways, was at this moment in the world's eye.

. . . The *Huntsville Times* was proclaiming that one of our local daughters, born in Decatur, Alabama, was aboard that historical flight. Following that flight, *Ebony Magazine* did a story proclaiming a female African-American astronaut, God sent, elevating the status of the Black female. . . . Thus is the nature of Dr. Mae Jemison. Everyone can and should legitimately claim her as being one of theirs.

Dr. Jemison's influence is international, and she is a role model for men and women of many cultures, . . . and I extend NASA's warmest welcome to her.

Dr. Donald Frazier

Scientist

INTRODUCTION

The time had come for the speaker to be introduced formally, and who could do it better in form, fashion, fervor, and flourish than **Dr. Sylvia Barnes!** The eloquence of the previous greeters obviously robbed her of much of her introductory remarks as reflected in her opening statement:

"And what more shall I say? *(Applause)*

Yet, **Dr. Sylvia Barnes,** Professor of English, if you please, can never be found wanting for appropriate expressions at such a time as this. Thus she proceeded to say:

> How did she get to Chicago? Of course, her family migrated there from Decatur. . . . She did graduate from Morgan Park High School in Chicago. . . . Her interest in science started at an early age. . . .
>
> During her college years at Stanford University, . . . she received a B.S. in chemical engineering and a B.A. in African and African-American studies. And during that same time don't you know that she joyfully spent her spare time in studying African, Brazilian, and Japanese artistic dance?
>
> And, but for her mother's nudging, she might have gone into that field. But her mom said, "You can offer more to the world if you continue in science and be a medical doctor." So, as all good daughters

L-R: L. Pollard, Mae C. Jemison, S. Barnes, O. Montgomery, Ruth Yates, Billy Jackson, Gamal Alexander, W. Knight

L-R: R. Carpenter, H. Batts, B. Martin, D. Frazier, Barrett Carson, A. Medley

Sylvia J. Barnes

would do, that's what she did. *(Applause)*

During her training she traveled to Thailand and other places, but one of the reasons she did all this travel . . . was to understand the customs and the culture of other people, for "science," she said, "without consideration for people is impractical."

Reading in your program, you wonder, "Can she do some of the things that ordinary human beings do?" *(Applause)* Of course she can. She has experience in computer programming. That's a comfort to some of you here. She has experience in nuclear-magnetic resonant spectroscopy, but she also likes to ski and garden and read.

You may be interested to know that she speaks Swahili, Japanese, and Russian, and, in addition, don't you know she speaks English without a flaw? *(Applause)*

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my greatest pleasure, a delight to present to you this evening–Astronaut, Physician, Engineer Dr. Mae C. Jemison. *(Standing ovation)*

EXCERPTS FROM THE ADDRESS

Dr. Jemison began her presentation by extending congratulations to the college for its 100 years of excellence in education and growth. She added that her remarks would refer to what the next 100 years might bring, but before that she would let the audience know something about her background.

Between the ages of five and seven growing up in Chicago, Mae had a desire, a strong imagination about being on this space ship earth, traveling throughout the cosmos at tremendous speed. She was fascinated by the stars as she looked up at them at nights. She said that people around her in the great city of Chicago did not know or even care about her intelligence, motivation, creativity, energy, or talent. If they knew about her interest in space travel,

they would have asked how she got the audacity to think that she could go into space, when John Glenn or Alan Shepherd had nothing in common with her. She, however, had the self-confidence that she could become whatever she wanted to be.

> My parents raised me to know that I and each one of us has inside of us the capacity to dream, to plan, to enjoy life and the world, and the capacity to change our existence to be strong, yet sensitive in giving to others.

Jemison said, "I learned very early never to limit myself because of someone else's limited imagination. These days I learn never to limit anyone else because of my own limited imagination."

Jemison added that we should always be expected to achieve throughout life. When asked what her greatest accomplishment has been, Jemison said that people expect her to say her experience in space, but her answer is, "accomplishing small difficult tasks when no one was looking that allowed me to accomplish large easy ones when all eyes are on me."

Jemison said that she wants to become the person she wants her child to be, and make the world today the world she wants her child to live in tomorrow. To get to this point, however, Jemison said one must consider the issue of science and technology:

> Science is the search for understanding, and technology is putting that understanding into some practical use. If you understand something you can find a solution for it.
>
> When I talk about science understanding and the need for it and science literacy, we do not need one hundred million nuclear physicists, but we need one hundred million voters who can read a newspaper article, understand it, and then vote on an environmental issue.

Jemison said that love, safety, and happiness are three universal needs, and technology is the tools we create to help support these needs for all people.

Speaking of her experience in space, Jemison said that she was impressed by the permanence and strength of the stars and the earth. So when people say "save the earth," that is not a problem because the earth will be there. What we need to do is to "treat it in such a way that it does not become an environment that is hostile to us." She further stated that 90 percent of the ancient forests in North America are gone. While the U.S. has only 4 percent of the world's population, it creates 25 percent of the world's carbon dioxide.

Twenty-five percent of the world's population live in industrialized areas, but we create over 80 percent of its pollution and waste.

Jemison said that she teaches courses in Sustainable Development which address improving life in such a way now that we don't jeopardize the ability of future generations to take care of themselves. The ingredients needed for this are:

1. Division of Natural Resources–what we use our resources for.
2. People vs. Provocative Posture–Does it make good sense to spend more on destructive weaponry than on education and health combined?
3. Politics–Including everyone in the decision-making process if we expect them to abide by the decisions we make.

The Right to Vote or Make Decisions

According to Jemison a right is not something someone gives you, but that which no one can take away. She noted that some people operate from the premise of zero sum equation which means that if you add something to this side you have to take something from the other side. In social terms, this implies that if people who have

suffered long cultural, social, or political inequities demand to be included, then those who have had advantages traditionally now feel that something is going to be taken from them. "Fear and belligerent ignorance," Jemison said, "closes doors for all of us."

Role Model

"Sometimes people point to me as a model of what can happen in America–a demonstration of how far a person can come. Yes, I had a lot of talent, skills, and worked really hard to overcome obstacles thrown in front of me," Jemison said. "I met with a lot of success, but I had much going for me including Affirmative Action. Without Affirmative Action I probably would not be here speaking to you tonight," she added. "Not that I did not do well, but I needed people to change the way they view things to allow me to participate. Folk can pull themselves up from the boot straps if they have boots to pull on."

Jemison climaxed her speech with a quote from Nelson Mandela:

> Our worst fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light not our darkness that frightens us. We ask ourselves, "Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, powerful, and fabulous?" Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. . . . We are born to make manifest the glory of God within us. . . . As we are liberated from our fear, we automatically liberate others.

There are 86,400 seconds in each day, according to Jemison, and each one of those seconds is extremely precious, because we can do anything we like with each of those seconds, but we can never get a single one of them back.

"In the next 100 years," she said, "be sure to use each one of your seconds creatively, and forever realize that time is always right to do right, and to bloom."

This timely presentation, rich with practical pointers to success brought the audience to thunderous applause and a standing ovation. Following the presentation of gifts from the Centennial Committee and the student body, Dr. Jemison found herself surrounded by students, faculty, staff, and community people asking questions and requesting autographs.

Adele C. Hall, 2nd from left, with business majors at Moran Hall

Chapter 11

OTHER CENTENNIAL EVENTS

Many other Centennial events occurred which, though less spectacular, drew rave reviews. They included the following:

■ Oakwood Heritage Moment

Daily, throughout the Centennial year celebration, Oakwood Heritage Moment was a favorite program on WOCG, the campus radio station. The speaker was Minneola Dixon, Oakwood's archivist.

Generally, an archivist collects, prepares, houses, and retrieves historical records. Mrs. Dixon added another dimension which was the publicizing of selected items which her radio audience found meaningful. She has written 600 stories dealing with:

- Early Oakwood History
- Torchbearers
- Personality profiles
- Families
- Faculty
- Black Pioneers
- Nursing History at Oakwood
- Music

The ministry of Oakwood Heritage Moment generated public interest in the history of the college, and inspired student research.

■ Huntsville Youth Orchestra Presents Excerpts from The MESSIAH

The December 1995 Centennial feature was *The Messiah* by the Huntsville Youth Orchestra, directed by Dr. Beatrice Renee Collins-Williams of the Oakwood College Department of Music. The program was held at the College Church on Saturday, December 9, at 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Beatrice Collins-Williams

Attended by many community people and the College Family, the program was a major success.

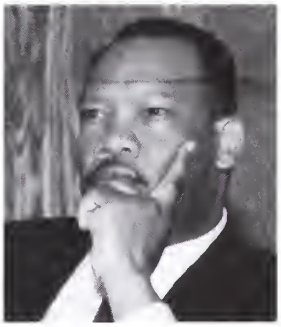
■ "I Have a Dream"

The celebration of Martin Luther King's birthday on January 15, 1996, was the first major Centennial event for the new year. The guest presenter was Jim Lucas, who is fondly referred to as "King's-look-alike." He is a well-known orator-actor who delivers famous King's speeches such as

"I have a Dream"

"I've Seen the Promised Land"

"I've Been to the Mountaintop"



■ Oakwood Hosts Chamber Breakfast

As a gesture of good relations with Huntsville business community, Oakwood hosted the March 12, 1996, Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce Breakfast. Oakwood's guest speaker for the event, which was held at the Von Braun Center North Hall, was Adele C. Hall, Vice President of the College Fund/UNCF, and wife of the chairman of the Board of Hallmark Cards, Inc.

Mrs. Hall visited the campus and spoke with business majors following the breakfast.

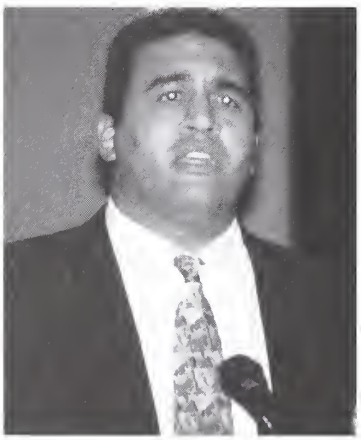
■ Southern Adventist University Band Presents Concert

Ashby Auditorium was the scene of a brilliant performance by the Southern Adventist University Band at 8:00 p.m., March 21, 1996, under the direction of Patricia Silver.

The program was one of the Centennial Concert Series, and was very well received by all attendees.

■ Brian Holloway, 5-Time NFL All-Pro Presents Motivational Lecture

Brian is a sports analyst for ABC Television. At age 23, he became the youngest vice president of the NFL Players Association. The handsome 6' 7" Super Star puts on a real show, using music and multi-media devices to enhance his presentation. He was the Centennial guest artist at Ashby Hall on Tuesday, November 12, 1996, at 8:00 p.m.



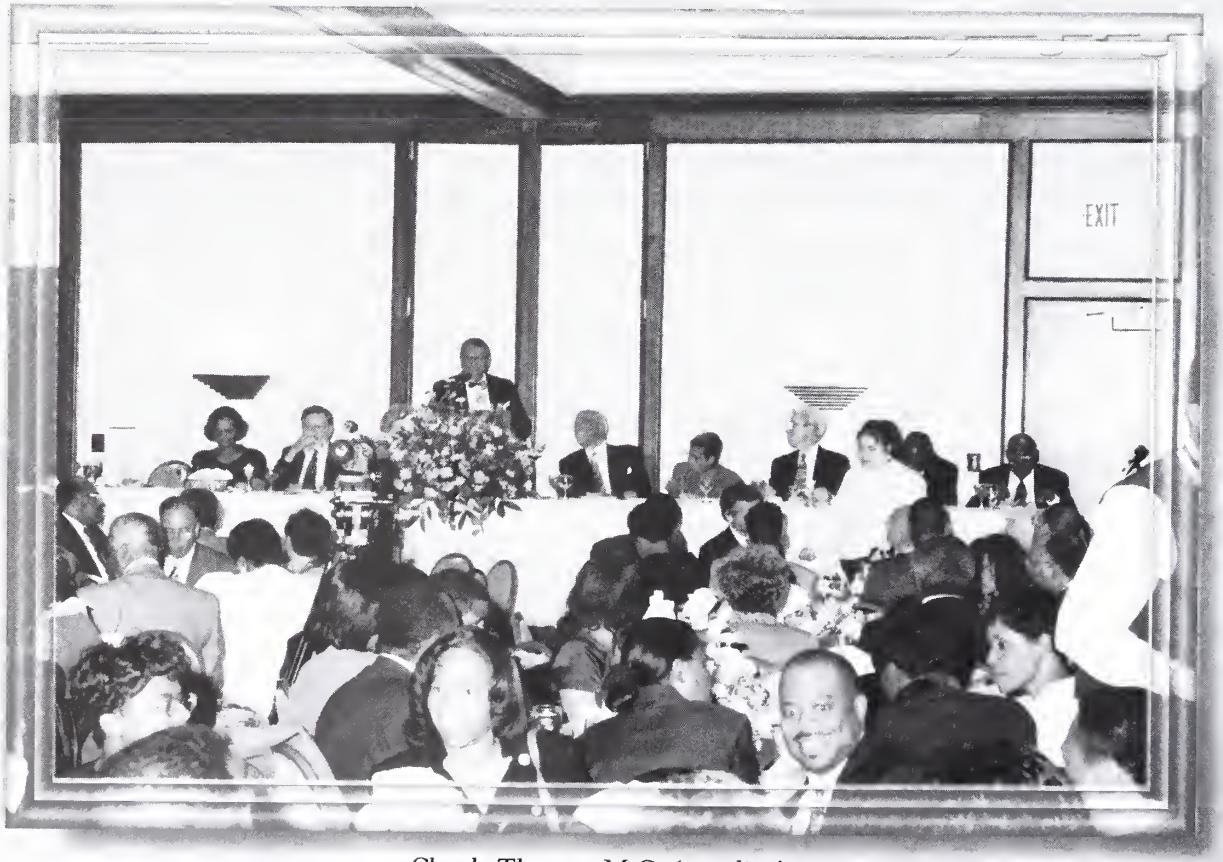
■ Community Day

During the final week of the Centennial year, the college opened the campus on Sunday, November 10, for visitors, with activities going on at various locations.

A major attraction was East Hall. This is the oldest existing building on campus (1907). It was completely renovated, refurbished, and opened for the public to visit. It currently houses the Division of Advancement and Development.

East Hall

A student body gift to President and Mrs. Reaves.



Claude Thomas, M.C. (standing).

Chapter 12

PRESIDENTIAL FAREWELL

"The Last Supper"
Positioning For The Future

It was at commencement 1996 when the public learned that **Dr. Benjamin F. Reaves** had accepted a call to the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and, as such, would resign the presidency of Oakwood College effective at the end of the calendar year. The steering committee was glad that he planned to lead the college at least until the end of the Centennial celebration. The date of Sunday, November 10, 1996, at 7:00 p.m., was reserved for "the last supper," an appreciation banquet at the Huntsville Marriott Hotel. A separate program was planned for the students at large due to limited space.

Mrs. Hattie Mims served as chair of the Planning Committee. The other members were **Shirley Bailey, Carole Booth, Sherman Cox, Minneola Dixon, Sylvia Germany, Elsie Harley, Selita Harpe, Shirley Iheanacho, Marcia Burnette, Roy Malcolm, Kelvin Mills, Juliaette Phillips, Prudence Pollard, Fred Pullins, Moges Selassie, and Ann Smith-Winbush.**

Mistress and Master of Ceremonies were **Sandra Price and Claude Thomas.**

Benjamin Jones, Jr., Pastor of the First SDA Church of Huntsville, offered the invocation, followed by greetings from **Alfred McClure,** Chairman of the Board, and **Emerson Cooper,** Special Assistant to the President. Music throughout the evening was pro-

vided by **Connect-5,** and selected music department artists including **Ardis Pascall**–Miss Oakwood 1996-97–and **Lloyd Mallory**, choral director.

Community leaders present to speak on behalf of their organizations regarding the honoree's contribution to the well-being of Huntsville and surrounding areas included: President John T. Gibson of Alabama A & M University; Honorable Laura Hall, State Representative; and Mr. Hundley Batts, President of the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. & Mrs. Reaves also received many quality gifts from representatives of the state and local government; Oakwood College faculty and staff; United Student Movement; the College Church; Oakwood College National Alumni Association; J. L. Moran Alumni Chapter; Connie S. Mayfield, Oakwood Ohio Alumni Chapter; Marriott Corporation; Garland J. Millet of the Committee of 100; and The Planning Committee.

The speakers and presenters applauded Dr. Reaves for accomplishments which included;

- Elimination of the $1.7 million deficit
- Increased enrollment (1,666 in 1996)
- Percentage of earned doctorates among faculty (58)
- Unqualified audits for the past decade
- Increased endowment from one to 4.8 million dollars
- Building of Wade Hall (1990)
- Influence on the city of Huntsville to begin construction of Adventist Boulevard, and to make Oakwood Road private for the college
- Completion of new entrance to the college

BANQUET SCENES

Sandra Price, Co-host

Food Service Director Kelvin Mills makes presentation to President Reaves

Hundley Batts

Ardis Pascall

Moges Selassie

Representative Laura Hall

- Major renovations and remodeling of Anna Knight Hall, Moran Hall, Ashby Auditorium
- Restoration of East Hall
- Establishment of the offices of College Relations, Trust Services, Grants and Contracts, Institutional Effectiveness, Enrollment Management, Human Resources, and Adult Education
- Development of new degree programs in Adult Education, Finance, Physical Education, French, Spanish, Administrative Systems Management, Dietetics, Family and Consumer Sciences
- Initial funding for the new business complex
- Installation of uniformed campus signs
- Installation of Historic Marker

Dr. & Mrs. Wm. J. Hicks

Pastor & Mrs. E. C. Ward

Overwhelmed by the magnificent outpouring of gratitude and praise expressed in word and action, Dr. Reaves, on behalf of wife **Jean** and children **Terrilyn, Benjamin, and Pamela,** responded with equal eloquence in expressions of thanks and appreciation to God, the college, community, and the hundreds of guests who filled the banquet hall.

Knowing that he was to deliver his farewell sermon just days later (November 16), the renowned homiletician and speaker reserved some of his choicest expressions of gratitude for that occasion.

100th Birthday

Finally, the day to which we looked forward had come–November 16, 1996, **the 100th anniversary of Oakwood College and the Oakwood College Church.** A brief musical featuring **Rise Lowery, Edrene Malcolm** and **the Bethelaires** gave the Sabbath School program a brilliant start. For that which God had done over 100 years, **Olivia Davis, '88 and Chameka Mosley, '96,** invited the congregation to respond in the singing of the hymn:

> Praise Him! Praise Him!
> Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
> Sing, O earth–His wonderful love proclaim!
> Hail Him! Hail Him! highest archangels in glory;
> Strength and honor give to His holy name!

Lequita Gaskins, U.S.M. officer, continued the praise with the reading of *Psalm 150:*

> Praise ye the LORD.
> Praise God in His sanctuary:
> Praise Him in the firmament of His power.
>
> Praise Him for His mighty acts:
> Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.
>
> Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet:
> Praise Him with the psaltery and harp.
>
> Praise Him with the timbrel and dance:
> Praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.
>
> Praise Him upon the loud cymbals:
> Praise Him upon the high sounding cymbals.
>
> Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.
> Praise ye the LORD.

Indeed it was a high day deserving of praise to our God, and USM religious vice president **Gamal Alexander** further acknowledged the goodness of God in prayer.

Scenes from the Sabbath School . . .
November 16, 1996

Olivia Davis

Mervyn A. Warren

Ardis Pascall

Participants Talk About
Significant Events During Each Decade From 1896-1996

Frankie Cantrell and G. M. Hemphill

Devon Tuitt

Overseas Experiences Told to Audience

Following a beautiful solo by **Belynda Mulzac, Ardis Pascal**l and **Russell Purse** led several other participants in an exercise that highlighted significant events of the college by decades from 1896 to 1996.

For the Mission Emphasis, **G. M. Hemphill, '48, Devon Tuitt, '96,** and **Frankie Cantrell, '50,** related unique experiences from the areas overseas where they served as missionaries. **Chaplain Anthony Medley** and **Janviere Lavender** led in the lesson study.

The Worship Service

The church is fully occupied; not a vacant seat remaining. There is music in the air produced by organist **Eurydice Osterman;** pianist **Winifred Rivers;** Aeolians/College Choir, **Lloyd Mallory,** Conductor; the new Oakwood College Symphony Orchestra, **Beatrice R. Collins-Williams,** Conductor; Pastor **Leslie N. Pollard** presiding.

Seeing that it was the last day of Oakwood's first 100 years, the last Sabbath with Benjamin F. Reaves as president, all members of the President's Cabinet were, by design, seated on the platform "to hold up the *prophet's* hand," viz:

Dr. Sandra Price ..... Invocation

Dr. Timothy McDonald ... Hymn Announcement

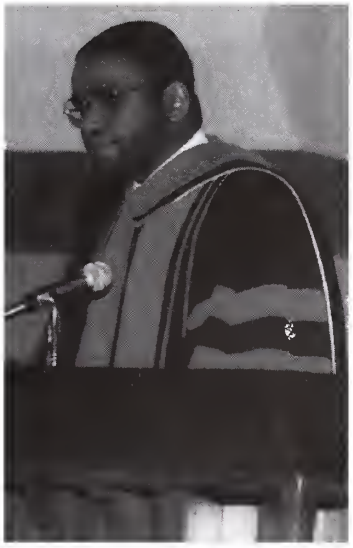
Dr. Prudence Pollard ..... Scripture, Deuteronomy 1:5-8

Dr. Trevor Fraser ..... Scripture, Deuteronomy 2:1-3

Dr. Roy Malcolm ..... Special Announcement

Mr. Moges Selassie ..... Offertory

Mrs. Juliaette Phillips ..... Hymn Announcement



Leslie N. Pollard, D.Min.

The performance of Beethoven's Hallelujah Chorus: from the *Mount of Olives* by the orchestra and choir drew a hearty response from the audience and words of commendation from the pastor.

In his welcome remarks, **President Joseph W. McCoy of the South Central Conference** commended Dr. Reaves for his obvious awareness of the importance of effective conference/college collaboration in the cause of achieving quality Christian education for our youth.

Surprise vs. Surprise

Obviously, a great deal was accomplished under the 11-year leadership of President Reaves. Inasmuch as the Centennial theme emphasized "Preserving the Past," it occurred to us that these achievements should be preserved in written form. Therefore, we prepared a book which contained all major achievements entitled ***A Salute to Eleven Years of Excellence in Administration, Benjamin F. Reaves, President, 1985-1996, Oakwood College.***

During the welcome period, Pastor Pollard invited me to the pulpit to make this presentation–a surprise for Dr. Reaves. Calling Dr. Reaves to join me at the podium, I said:

> There used to be a television program years ago entitled "This is Your Life." We could not go there, however, Mr. President, for yours is such a *big life.* We have therefore limited it to the eleven years you have served us as president. So I want to say to you at this time–**"This is Your Administration."** *(Applause)*

He was obviously very pleased even though he did not have time then and there to look it through. In fact, as I was about to return to my seat, he said:

Don't go away. It just so happens that on my way to the pulpit to receive this, I have something that I need to present. It's funny how things work out. That is, a plaque to Roy Enford Malcolm, and it reads:

> *Presented to Roy Enford Malcolm, Dean of College Relations, for excellent performance in planning activities for the celebration of Oakwood College's Centennial Year, 1995-1996.*
>
> *Chairing the Centennial Steering Committee with great distinction and expediting with efficiency the programmatic details of the Centennial, going the second mile in the performance of his task as he and the committee brought Oakwood College to the 100th year of its founding.*
>
> *With great appreciation on behalf of the Oakwood College Family.*
>
> *Benjamin F. Reaves, Pres*ident
> This 16th Day of November 1996.

Talk about a man surprised and appreciative? There was one.

As the service continued, **Elder A. C. McClure, Board Chairman,** introduced Dr. Reaves as one who is a friend as well as president. McClure said:

> You have observed his warm interaction with people and his masterful articulation as the chief spokesperson for Oakwood College; as a homiletician and as a preacher. . . a skill in which he has few peers.

Elder McClure added that Reaves provided superb leadership, brought about "stability, growth, financial equilibrium and a visionary sense of direction."

> I personally count him among my closest friends. I have the highest respect and admiration for him. Our relationship as Board chair and college president has never seen the first stressful moment. . . . This morning as he opens the Word, I therefore invite your careful attention and I implore your prayerful meditation. . . .

This eloquent and touching introduction, together with the music of the Aeolians' *The Lord be Praised*, prepared the way for the final message for the college's 100th anniversary; the final message of **Benjamin F. Reaves as president;** a message entitled: ***Positioning for the Future!***

A.C. McClure
Chairman, College Board

Positioning for the Future

(Abridged for Publication)

Introduction

My brothers and sisters, I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I want to express the deep appreciation my wife and I feel for the *love* and *support* that you have given us. Quite frankly, you have given us the *multi-media montage of memory*–multi-media because it's not just sight, but also *sounds*. The sound of *worship*. . . the sound of the *Aeolians*; the sound of *vespers*; the sound of *commencement*; the sound of *communion*. I thank you for all those sounds. But I especially thank you for the sound while walking across campus, a hallway, or mall; the sound of someone stopping me saying, "I pray for you, I pray for you." I thank you for those prayers. . .

The Message

Clearly, it is both a privilege and blessing to be here in this impressive moment of monument (and it is a monument of time, carved out of eternity), for we, as a corporate family, have enjoyed the celebration of a remarkable journey–a journey of 100 years, a journey born in the providence of God. A journey that has taken this institution from its inception across rivers of challenge; through valleys of difficulty and over mountains of opposition. I thank God for the privilege of sharing a portion of that journey with you. It is a journey that now brings us to Centennial where our activities and focus have been driven by the theme: "Preserving the Past; Possessing the Present"; and today's focus, "Positioning for the Future."

The word for today is found in the book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 1:5-8. "On this side of Jordan, in the land of Moab, began Moses to declare this law saying, The LORD our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying, Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount: Turn you, and take your journey, and go to the mount of the Amorites. . . .

Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land. . . .

Israel was at a point of transition and succession, bridging what was, is, and will be. These words from the past are especially suited for *Positioning for the Future*.

On this side of Jordan. . .you have dwelt long enough in this mount. . . . Forty years earlier, Israel stood at the borders of the promised land, but in doubt and fear turned back into the wilderness. Now they had again come up to the borders. Moses reviewed their wandering and the recent blessings and victories in the slaying of the king of the Amorites and the king of Bashan. Yet they were still *on this side of Jordan*.

Positioning for the future begins with remembering, reviewing the past. Some people forget the past, as though life began when they arrived. They have no sense of the background and the meaning of all that transpired before.

Oakwood has not always been rightly represented by its sons and daughters, but the positives have greatly outweighed the negatives. There have been impressive gains and accomplishments, but in light of all that, we are still on this side of Jordan. There is more to do on this side of Jordan. The promised land is still ahead. God has a plan for Oakwood. We are still on this side of Jordan positioning ourselves for the future.

Positioning for the future requires not only remembering or reviewing the past, but reaffirmation in the present; that is, ratifying loyalty to God. Moses was speaking to a covenant community, one to whom God made special commitment. Moses expected response. He exhorted them to hear 50 times; to do, keep, observe 177 times; to do out of a heart of love 21 times.

If we are serious about positioning for the future, we must remind ourselves why we are here. We are not called to be the Harvard of the east or the Stanford of the west. We are called to be the Oakwood of the world.

I thank God that Oakwood has never been stronger, but we must be faithful to who we are. We are intentionally and unapologetically Seventh-day Adventists.

Positioning for the future requires not only remembering and affirming, but also realizing our promised potential by action. As we stand on this side of Jordan, our responsibility is action–Take your journey; turn northward; go up to the high ground, the hill country. God's summon is: Advance, advance. I have set the land before you; go and take it.

This text placed the challenge squarely before Israel. As it was for them, it is also for us. The summons is always the same: *move on.*

Whether it is Oakwood Industrial School, *move on*

Whether it is Oakwood Manual Training School, *move on*

Whether it is Oakwood Junior College, *move on*

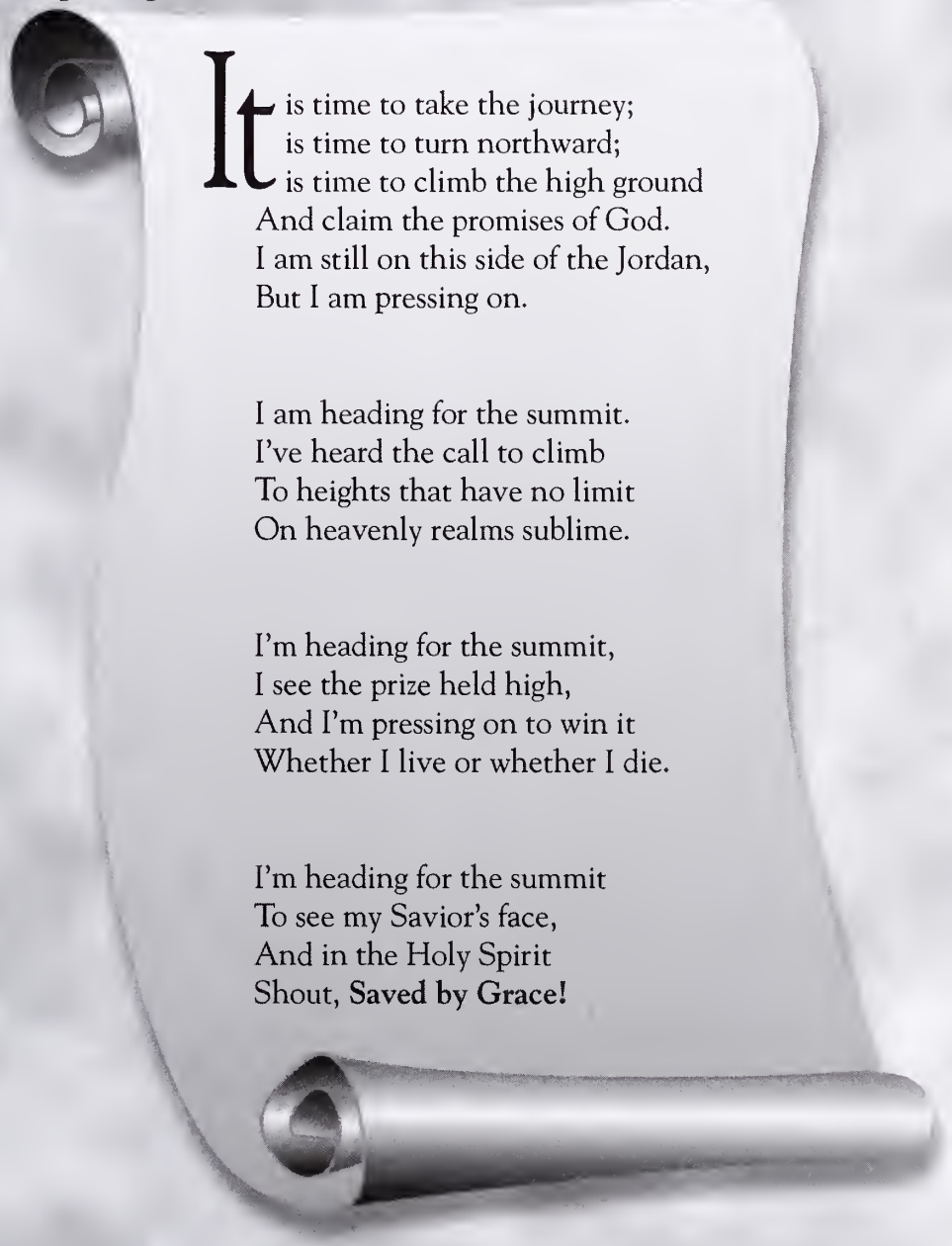
Whether it is Oakwood Senior College, *move on*

Whether it is Oakwood University, *move on*

Because, higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His institution.

The purpose of positioning is possession. The conditions for possessing the land are the faithfulness of God to His promise and the willingness of the people to move. While God's faithfulness makes possession possible, our obedience makes it a reality. Life needs no longer to be lived on this side of Jordan. We can stand on God's promises faithfully toward the future which He promised us.

My brother/sister, the challenge of the hour is clear. You have been walking around the mountain, going through those wildernesses long enough.

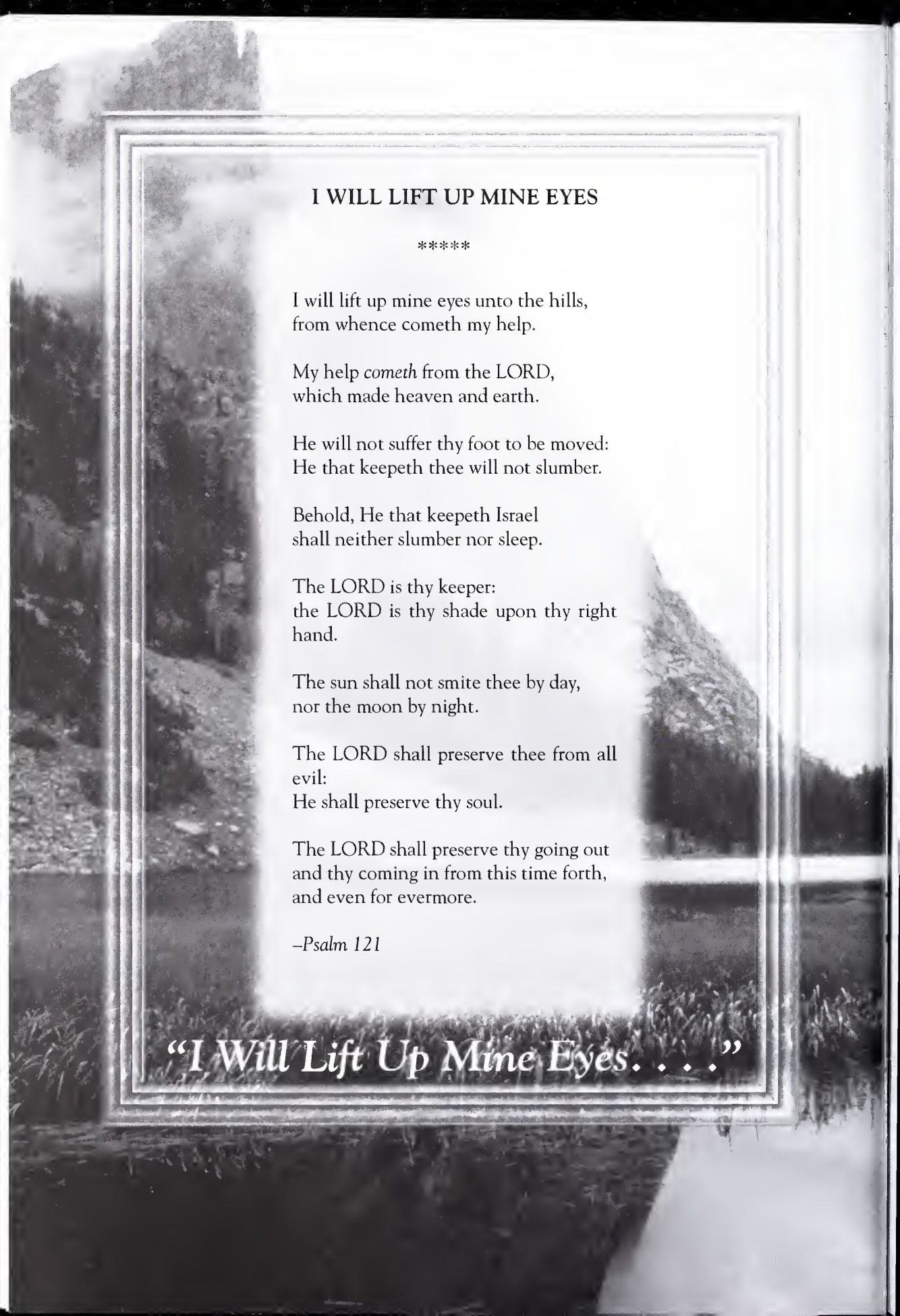


It is time to take the journey;
is time to turn northward;
is time to climb the high ground
And claim the promises of God.
I am still on this side of the Jordan,
But I am pressing on.

I am heading for the summit.
I've heard the call to climb
To heights that have no limit
On heavenly realms sublime.

I'm heading for the summit,
I see the prize held high,
And I'm pressing on to win it
Whether I live or whether I die.

I'm heading for the summit
To see my Savior's face,
And in the Holy Spirit
Shout, **Saved by Grace!**



I WILL LIFT UP MINE EYES

*****

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.

My help *cometh* from the LORD,
which made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:
He that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, He that keepeth Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is thy keeper:
the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite thee by day,
nor the moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil:
He shall preserve thy soul.

The LORD shall preserve thy going out
and thy coming in from this time forth,
and even for evermore.

–Psalm 121

"I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes. . . ."

Chapter 13

CLOSING CEREMONY

THE TIME OF THE END of the year-long Centennial Celebration was at hand. To bring everything to a dramatic close, the Oakwood College 200-voice mass choir and the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra were scheduled to present a cantata by the Black composer **Adolphus Hailstork:** *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes.*

Hailstork wrote *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes* in response to being selected as the featured composer for the 1989 Noah Ryder Memorial Concert in Norfolk, Virginia. "I took a psalm setting I had recently sketched for tenor solo," Hailstork said, "added a chorus to it, and wrote two other movements. The resulting cantata received its premiere with piano in November of that year (1989). It is dedicated to the memory of the African-American composer, the late Undine Smith Moore."

Composer

Adolphus Hailstork is professor of music in residence at Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia. He received the doctorate from Michigan State University where he was a student of H. Owen Reed. He was also a student of Vittorio Giannini and David Diamond at the Manhattan School of Music, the American Institute at Fountainebleau with Nadia Boulanger, and Howard University with Mark Fax.

He has written other compositions that have been performed by the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Atlanta, Dallas, Detroit, and Tallahassee Symphonies.

Chorus/Soloist

The Chorus was the Oakwood College Mass Choir of approximately 200 voices. Director Lloyd Mallory was desirous of bringing in a renowned tenor from New York as the soloist. "Is this soloist an Oakwoodite?" I asked Mallory. "No," he replied. "But you are a tenor, aren't you, Mr. Mallory?" I continued, "Can you handle it?" "Yes, I can," he responded with observable modesty. "Well, then, " I said, "Thou art the man."

Mallory, a graduate of Oakwood College (B.A.) and Morgan State University (M.A.), was a tenor soloist in the *Missa Brevis in* C by Beethoven with the Baltimore Orchestra. He performed also with the Morgan Choir and the Chicago Symphonia, the Westchester Symphony in New York, the National Symphony of Washington, DC, and the Bonn, Germany, Symphony Orchestra in Bonn, Germany. He was, indeed, the man for the moment.

Conductor

A former chair of the Oakwood Music Department, Dr. Jon Robertson, was invited as guest conductor for the event. Robertson, chair of the Music Department at UCLA, a world-renowned pianist and conductor, looked forward to this event. While at Oakwood, Robertson conducted many programs with the Huntsville Symphony. In fact, the College Choir and Huntsville Symphony flew to Los Angeles in 1970 for a performance of *Verdi Requiem* at the Shrine Auditorium, under the direction of Dr. Robertson.

Less than two weeks before the Closing Ceremony, Robertson, who had had recent surgery, was advised of the risks involved in traveling for this event, so he could not come. Immediately I con-

tacted my friend **Mr. Samuel Woodward,** manager of the Huntsville Symphony, to request the services of **Mr. Taavo Virkhaus,** conductor of the Symphony. The response was very positive.

Virkhaus visited the campus soon after to view the setting in the College Church as well as to acquaint himself with Mr. Mallory and the chorus. Rehearsal for the chorus and orchestra was set for Saturday, November 16, at 2:00 p.m., with the program to begin at 6:00 p.m.

Program Preliminaries

When the hour was come to begin, the church was fully occupied, and the program began on time with a beautiful rendition of *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing* by the choir, followed by the invocation of Chaplain **Anthony Medley.** Vice President for Administration **Dr. Prudence Pollard** gave a colorful reading and interpretation of the scriptural passage Psalm 121, the basis of the Cantata.

> I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
>
> From whence cometh my help.
>
> My help cometh from the Lord,
>
> Which made heaven and earth. . . .

The audience heard *welcome* from Pastor **Leslie N. Pollard,** President **Benjamin F. Reaves** and student body Executive Vice President **LaShandra English.** *One Foundation* was the theme of a short beautiful hymn arranged and sung by **Connect-5.**

- **Greetings:**

  Loretta Spencer, Mayor of Huntsville, praised the choir in her greetings. ". . . I thought I went to heaven," she said. She added her appreciation for the contributions of Dr. Benjamin F. Reaves and her regret that he was leaving Oakwood just as she became the mayor. Other greetings came from

Loretta Spencer
Mayor

the O.C. National Alumni President, **Chlora Jones,** and **Prince Preyer, Madison County Commissioner.**

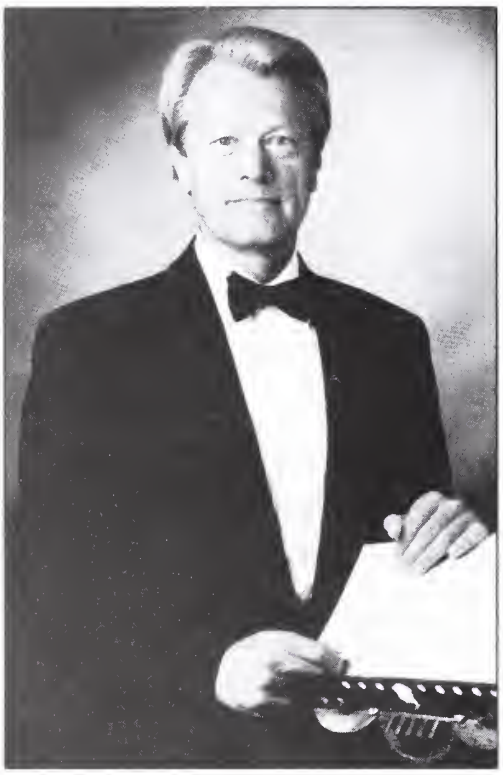
- **Proclamations:**
  Ms. Juliaette Phillips, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, and **Ardis Pascall, Miss Oakwood 1996** read proclamations from:
  Congressmen Bud Cramer and Spencer T. Bachus III
  Senators Howell Heflin and Richard Shelby
  Governor Fob James of Alabama
- **Video: *A Centennial of Service***
  A short video, *Oakwood, A Centennial of Service*, held the audience spellbound for its 18-minute duration. President Reaves had shown it earlier at the annual Fall Council of the General Conference held overseas where it received high praise.

I WILL LIFT UP MINE EYES

The Occasion

I had the honor to introduce the event and the participants, but not before asking the audience to reach out to a neighbor and say "Happy Centennial, Celebrate With us." It was a delight to witness hundreds of people moving about, greeting one another in the spirit of the celebration. The introduction continued with these words:

> The Centennial theme implies positioning for and looking to the future. If I am to look to the future with hope and aspiration, chances are, I will lift up mine eyes. Therefore, we are pleased to present the Oakwood College Mass Choir and Lloyd B. Mallory, soloist, with the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra under the direction of the internationally renowned conductor, **Maestro Taavo Virkhaus.**



Taavo Virkhaus is Music Director and Conductor of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra. Born in Tartu, Estonia, Maestro Virkhaus immigrated with his family to the United States in 1949. In 1955, after six years in the United States, Taavo Virkhaus earned a bachelor's degree in music education *cum laude*, from the University of Miami (Florida). Two years later, he received a master's degree in music theory from the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music, and the following summer, a scholarship to study chamber music and conducting at the world-famous Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood.

Maestro Virkhaus continued his study of conducting in the master classes of Pierre Monteux, as Fulbright Scholar with Professor Wolfgang von der Nahmer at Cologne Conservatory, and with Dr. Richard Lert in The American Symphony Orchestra League course for conductors. In 1967, he received his DMA degree from Eastman School in composition and violin.

As a composer, his major works include the Violin Concerto premiered by the Eastman Rochester Symphony, Symphony No. 1 premiered by the Baltimore Symphony, and Symphony No. 2 and Symphony No. 3 premiered by the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra. Symphony No. 3 was performed with Neeme Järvi and Minnesota Orchestra in September 1989. The Symphony No. 4 was premiered in Duluth, April 1992. Symphony No. 5 was premiered in Huntsville in March 1996.

A rousing round of applause erupted as the dashing master of the arts Virkhaus stepped forward, took a bow, and waved his baton. The orchestra began to play and then soloist Lloyd Mallory joined the orchestra with :

I will lift up mine eyes
To the hills, to the hills
From whence cometh my help.

The chorus then joined in singing the same lines over:

I will lift up mine eyes
To the hills, to the hills

This kind of musical exchange and interchange of soloist, chorus, and orchestra was very moving. The entire presentation lasted less than 30 minutes. In the end, the audience, with its applause and standing ovation, showed deep appreciation for what proved to be a magnificent performance.

Dr. Delbert Baker who was only hours away from assuming the presidency commented:

". . . Majestic, awe-inspiring; just glorious music. The combination of the orchestra, the conductor, soloist, choir, to me symbolizes the wonderful synergy, and the collaboration we have as a college, church, and community to work together to promote young people in a solid wholistic lifestyle."

Immediately following the benediction by **Dr. Trevor Fraser,** the audience was led outside by **Reaves** and **Baker** to observe a few minutes of fireworks. It was beautiful!

D.W. Baker
President-Elect

After the Celebration

- **Luncheon:**

Two days after this magnificent performance, I was invited, along with Mr. Mallory, to a luncheon with Manager **Samuel Woodward** and Conductor **Taavo Virkhaus** of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra. There they extended an invitation to Oakwood for a repeat performance at the Von Braun Center Concert Hall for their 1997 fall season. We accepted.

- **Installation of New President**

  In a moving historic ceremony held Tuesday, Nov. 19, 1996, at the College Church, Dr. Delbert W. Baker was installed as the 10th president of Oakwood College. "I accept the challenge," said Baker in response to the presidential charge administered by Alfred C. McClure, Chair of the College Board.

  Baker went on to recognize his wife and family and the work of his predecessors who labored to bring the College to

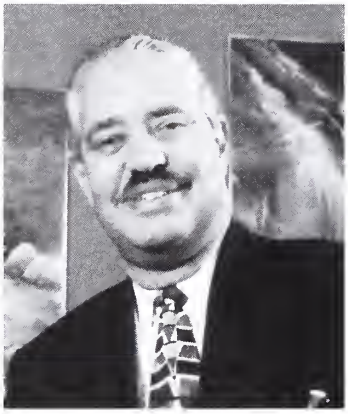
a high level of excellence. He further described qualities he wanted to see Oakwood College demonstrate at the turn of the century.

The audience responded with a standing ovation.

- **New Vice Presidents:**

  Among the first major actions of the new president was the appointment of Ella S. Simmons, Ed.D. as Academic Vice President, and Ronald A. Lindsey, M.B.A., as Vice President for Finance.

Dr. Simmons was Associate Dean of the School of Education, University of Louisville, Kentucky.



Mr. Lindsey was Associate Treasurer of the North American Division (Adventist Media Center), Thousand Oaks, California.

- **Repeat Performance with Huntsville Symphony:**

On November 22, 1997, the event took place. It received a stunning review by Steve Lau in the *Huntsville Times*, from which the following are extracts:

> It was an evening of soul searching and thanksgiving Saturday night at the Von Braun Center Concert Hall as the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra presented a record of personal spiritual quests by Beethoven, Ravel, Hailstork, and Dvorak.

The featured artists were the Oakwood College Chorus and tenor Lloyd Mallory. . . .

The music–the performing of it–became the very act of faith that leads to the release from suffering. The Aeolians stretched from wing to wing and seemed to enfold the orchestra and the audience in their arms. . . .

The might of the chorus was felt from the opening, and its power pinned the audience to their seats as if by a G-force. . . .

With great dignity, tenor Mallory intoned the text with a soulful, sweet voice. His yearning song both framed the question and gave the answer. . . .

The VBC Concert Hall, with its timid acoustics, could barely contain their energy, and in the end audience members were shaking their heads in disbelief in what they had just witnessed. Nothing like that can ever come from a stereo or movie screen. . . .

The evening was a renewal of hope, and the audience was left with a deep appreciation of the power of music to illuminate our way.

The Huntsville Times, November 24, 1997.

Epilogue

Century of Progress

Year of Celebration

by
Delbert W. Baker, Ph.D.
and
Susan M. Baker, DPT Sc.

The decision to open a school in Huntsville, Alabama, to educate African Americans in the South was, undoubtedly, divinely inspired. God used His servant Ellen G. White to convey the message and to provide needed guidance. So on November 16, 1896, on an old slave plantation of 380 acres bought for $6,700, school began with sixteen students and four teachers. The presence of 65 flourishing oak trees on the property contributed to the name, Oakwood Industrial School.

Some similar church-related schools founded about the same time as Oakwood have long closed their doors, merged with larger insti-

Courtesy of Adventist Historic Village

tutions, or else have been taken over by the State. By 1996, however, one hundred years after its founding, Oakwood Industrial School (now Oakwood College), had long achieved national and international recognition as a quality liberal arts college, offering degrees in more than 40 areas of study. Fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1958, Oakwood, during this century of progress, attracted students from 42 states and 32 other nations.

Tens of thousands of students have had at least a year of the Oakwood experience, while close to 7,000 gave their best to the demands of the challenging academic program in order to meet graduation requirements. These alumni have gone on to serve in positions of responsibility in government, private industry, and the Seventh-day Adventist world of work.

From early in this first century of progress, choral music at Oakwood College has been par excellence. Numerous groups have contributed to the school's outstanding reputation for quality music. Chief among them is the Aeolians ensemble which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1996 as well.

Programs in the natural sciences have also contributed to Oakwood's academic success. According to a report compiled from the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC), in 1979, Oakwood ranked fourth nationally among colleges and universities supplying Black applicants to medical schools, and eighth in the number accepted.

Oakwood alumni represent more than 90 percent of the leadership of the Black work of the SDA church in North America.

Year of Celebration

Indeed Oakwood College had much for which to be proud after 100 years of educating young men and women in accordance with its motto–"Enter to learn; Depart to serve."

The Centennial Steering Committee, throughout the year 1996, planned and executed numerous outstanding events which included presentations and performances by celebrities of the caliber of General Colin Powell; former astronaut Mae C. Jemison, M.D.; Singer Shirley Verrett; Congressman John R. Lewis; and 5-time NFL ALL PRO, Brian Holloway. They all contributed to an outstanding and memorable centennial year.

In his book–*Centennial: Highlights of the Celebration*, author Roy E. Malcolm fulfills an important phase of the Centennial Theme–"Preserving the Past," by documenting some of the more memorable episodes of the celebration. In addition, the inspiration and information gained from the contents of the book lead the reader to the conclusion that the "Oakwood Experience" aims at achieving the lasting goals of *Education*, *Excellence*, *Eternity*.

Delbert and Susan Baker are president and first lady of Oakwood College.

Appendices

- ☐ Proclamations
- ☐ Memorabilia
- ☐ Personnel
  - Faculty
  - Administration/Staff
  - Trustees

1995-1996

THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE
ALABAMA

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, meeting the challenge of educating young adults for the past 100 years is certainly a commendable achievement; and

WHEREAS, Oakwood College has had a strong sense of community under the leadership of Dr. Benjamin Reaves, and will continue to do so under the leadership of Dr. Delbert Baker; and

WHEREAS, the annual Homecoming Celebration, United Negro College Fund Banquet, the programs broadcast from WOCG radio station, and the Adult Degree Programs are just a few of the many qualities of life enhancements Oakwood College offers to our citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the Oakwood Centennial Year Celebration has been a year filled with exciting events in honor of the history and heritage of Oakwood College; and

WHEREAS, as this exciting year ends, Oakwood College will hold a Centennial Week Celebration to include a Parade, an Oakwood College Community Day, Worship Services, and many musical presentations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Loretta Spencer, Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, hereby proclaim the week of November 10 - 16, 1996 as

CENTENNIAL WEEK

in Huntsville, Alabama, and congratulate Oakwood College on meeting the needs of the Huntsville community. If the success of the past 100 years is any indication of what Oakwood can accomplish, the next 100 years will be an even greater success.

DATED this the seventh day of November, 1996.

Loretta Spencer
MAYOR, CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1996 No. 138

Senate

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF OAKWOOD COLLEGE
Statement of Senator Howell Heflin

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I want to congratulate Oakwood College as it celebrates its centennial year. Located in a beautiful setting on 1,185 acres of prime land in the northwest region of Huntsville, Alabama, Oakwood College was founded in 1896. It is a historically black liberal arts college operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The school enjoys a rich mix of more than 1,600 students drawn from many states, nations, experiences, and outlooks on life. The college fosters a nurturing environment that has enabled students to develop self-esteem and achieve academic success, often for the first time.

A caring, supportive faculty of over 90 members--57 percent of whom hold doctorates--is responsible for Oakwood's proven ability to meet its students' academic needs.

Oakwood's keen sense of community is reflected in its direct involvement with citizens of the Tennessee Valley through various campus initiatives and services. These include a speakers bureau, adult degree completion program, student-manned Volunteer Action League, a 25,000 watt radio station, annual United Negro College Fund banquet, and homecoming. Each year, the Oakwood homecoming events bring over 10,000 alumni and friends of the college to Huntsville.

Oakwood is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and offers associate and bachelor's degrees in more than 35 areas of concentration.

Oakwood has much to celebrate during its centennial year. Enrollment is higher than ever, graduates are achieving success at levels higher than ever before, and the campus is beautiful and its atmosphere inviting. I congratulate Oakwood College on its 100th anniversary and commend its administration, faculty, and students on all their accomplishments and academic success.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

SPENCER T. BACHUS, III
ALABAMA

November 13, 1996

Mr. Benjamin F. Reaves
President
Oakwood College
C/O Roy E. Malcolm, Chair
Centennial Committee
Huntsville, Alabama 35896

Dear President Reaves:

Congratulations on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of Oakwood College. For a century now, the College has enriched lives throughout the country and I commend you on this noble achievement.

The many leaders and students at Oakwood College have contributed greatly to the north Alabama community and indeed, to the whole state. So it is with sincere esteem that I wish you congratulations on your past achievements and continued success for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Spencer Bachus

Spencer T. Bachus, III
Member of Congress

STB:aef

STATE OF ALABAMA

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Oakwood College was founded in 1896 by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1896 in order to educate Southern African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, located within 1,185 of beautiful acres, Oakwood College is considered one of the important historical landmarks of the city of Huntsville; and

WHEREAS, Oakwood College is an accredited liberal arts college which offers majors in 40 different areas; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, Oakwood College was granted full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; and

WHEREAS, as a strong supporter of traditional family values, Oakwood College places great emphasis on the development of its students' character and principles, promoting abstinence from all elements that adversely affect one's body, mind, and spirit; and

WHEREAS, purity, honesty, industry, integrity, and ambition are considered the Shields of Gold for which students are encouraged to strive toward; and

WHEREAS, Oakwood College has stood as an outstanding, unique institution of higher education for the past century and will endeavor to continue that tradition of excellence for years to come; and

WHEREAS, Oakwood College will recognize its Centennial Celebration on November 16, 1996:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Fob James, Jr., Governor of the State of Alabama, do hereby proclaim November 16, 1996, as

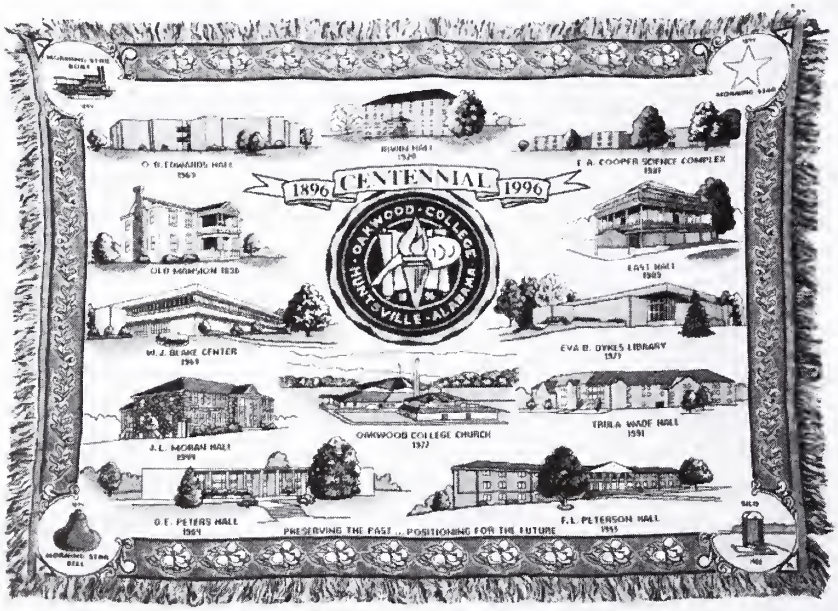
OAKWOOD COLLEGE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION DAY

in Alabama, and applaud the institution's contributions to the education and enrichment of its students, past, present, and future.

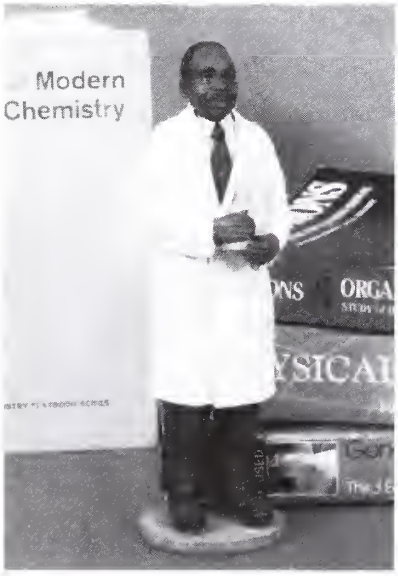
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND and the Great Seal of the Governor's Office at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on this 29th day of October, 1996.

FOB JAMES, JR.

Afghan



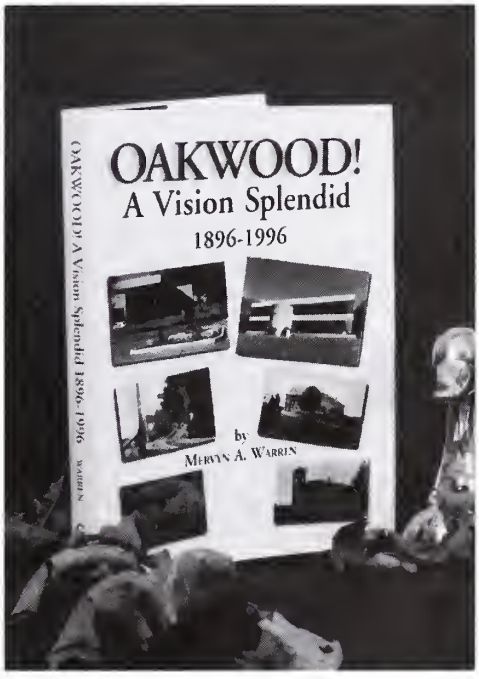
Figurines



Emerson A. Cooper

Eva B. Dykes

Miscellaneous Items



Appendix G

The Faculty by Department and Rank
1995-1996

Adult & Continuing Education

Keller, Marcia, M.S. ..... Asst. Professor
McDonald, Beverly, M.Ed. ..... Asst. Professor

Biological Sciences

Gibbons, Ashton, Ph.D.** ..... Professor
Lubega, Seth G., Ph.D.** ..... Professor
Maulsby, Nellie, Ph.D. ..... Asst. Professor
Paul, Anthony, P.D. ..... Asso. Professor**
Schmidt, Londa, Ph.D. ..... Asso. Professor
Uppala, Padma, Ph.D. ..... Asst. Professor

Business & Information Systems

Brathwaite, Faye, M.B.A./C.P.A. ..... Asst. Professor
Gill, Esther, Ed.D.** ..... Asso. Professor
Gunn, Ruth, M.B.A. ..... Asst. Professor
Jeries, John, M.S. ..... Asst. Professor
Ogum, George, Ph.D. ..... Asso. Professor
Theuri, Peter, M.B.A./C.P.A.+ ..... Asst. Professor
Tucker, Evelyn, M.S, J.D. ..... Asso. Professor**
Williams, Alan, M.S ..... Asst. Professor

Chemistry

Benn-Marshall, Karen, M.S. ..... Instructor
Gwebu, Ephraim, Ph.D. ..... Professor**
LaiHing, Kenneth, Ph.D.** ..... Professor
Tsang, Clement, Ph.D ..... Asst. Professor

Education

Bliss, Frances H., Ph.D.** ..... Asso. Professor
Hadley, Rosa L., Ed.D.** ..... Professor
McKenzie, Roland, Ed.D ..... Professor
Melancon, Artie, Ed D.** ..... Asso. Professor
Walker, Robert, Ed.D. ..... Asst. Professor

English & Communications

Andrews, Robert, Ph.D./Ed.D.** ..... Professor
Bames, Sylvia J., Ph.D.** ..... Professor
Benn, Bemard W., Ed.D.** ..... Professor
Benn, Ursula, D.A.** ..... Asso. Professor
Bowe, Derek, M.A.+ ..... Asst. Professor
Daly, Cecily, Ed.D ..... Asst. Professor
Davis, Oliver, D.A.** ..... Asso. Professor
Gooding, Lela, Ph.D. ..... Professor**
Handy, Hayward, Ph.D. ..... Professor
Harrison, Bobby, M.S. ..... Asst. Professor
Hinson, Kyna, M.A ..... Asst. Professor
Hyman, Ramona, M.A. ..... Asst. Professor
Patterson, Dorothy, M.S. ..... Asst. Professor
Tucker, Karen, M.Ed./M.S. ..... Asst. Professor

Family & Consumer Sciences

Davis, Ruth F., Ph.D. ..... Professor**
Reaves, Jean, M.Ed.** ..... Asso. Professor
Smith, Donna, M.P.H. ..... Asst. Profesor
Warren, Barbara J., M.Ed.** ..... Asso. Professor

History

Barham, Nigel, Ph.D.** ..... Professor
Hasse, Larry, Ph.D.** ..... Professor
Saunders, Emmanuel, Ph.D. ..... Professor**
Smith-Winbush, Annelee, M.A./J.D. ..... Instructor

Library

Dixon, Minneola, M.L.S. ..... Asst. Professor
Holman, Alberta, M.S.L.S. ..... Asst. Professor
Iheanacho, Morris A., M.S.L. ..... Asst. Professor
Lewis, Jannith L., Ph.D. ..... Professor**
Swan, Ruth, M.S.L.SIM.A.T.+ ..... Asso. Professor

Math and Computer Science

Blake, John A., Ed.D. ..... Professor**
Dobbins, Kathleen, M.S.** ..... Asso. Professor
Jeries, Joseph, M.S. ..... Asst. Professor
Monroe, Gracie, M.Ed. ..... Asst. Professor
Osei, John, M.S. ..... Asst. Professor

Music

Beazley, Ginger, M.A. ..... Asst. Professor
Chambers, Audley, M.A. ..... Asst. Professor
Collins-Williams, Beatrice R., D.M.A. ..... Asst. Professor
Lacy, Lucile, Ph.D.** ..... Asso. Professor
Osterman, Eurydice, D.M.A. ..... Professor**

Nursing

Dormer, Caryll, Ed.D.** ..... Asso. Professor
Gwebu, Keratiloe, M.S.N. ..... Instructor
Patel, Havovi, M.S. ..... Instructor
Simons, Selena, Ed.S. ..... Asst. Professor
White, Gwendolyn, M.S.N. ..... Asst. Professor

Physical Education

Peifer, Bruce, M.S. ..... Asst. Professor
Roddy, James A., M.Ed. ..... Asst. Professor
Shaw, Howard, Ph.D.** ..... Asso. Professor

Psychology

Carter, Luetilla M., Ed.S.** ..... Asso. Professor
Matthews, Belvia, Ph.D. ..... Asso. Professor**
Oler, Carlton, Ph.D. ..... Asst. Professor
Spence, Ellen, Ph.D. ..... Asst. Professor

Religion & Theology

Burton, Keith, Ph.D. ..... Asst. Professor
Doggette, James D., D.Min. ..... Asso. Professor
Mulzac, Kenneth, Ph.D. ..... Asst. Professor
Samson, Agniel, Th.D. ..... Professor
Shand, Lance, M.A ..... Asst. Professor
Warren, Mervyn A., Ph.D; D.Min. ..... Professor

Social Work

Anderson, Ellen, Ph.D ..... Asso. Professor
Fraser, Edith, Ph.D ..... Asso. Professor
Mims, Gregory, M.S.W ..... Asst. Professor
Phillips, Juliaette, M.S.W. ..... Asso. Professor**

Department Chairs
\+ Study Leave
** Tenured Faculty

Administration and Staff

Benjamin F. Reaves, D.Min. ..... President
Sandra F. Price, Ed.D. ..... Vice President of Academic Affairs
Moges Selassie, M.B.A. ..... *Interim* Vice President for Finance
Trevor Fraser, D.Min. ..... Vice President for Student Services
Prudence L. Pollard, Ph.D. ..... Vice President for Administration, Planning and Human Resources
Roy E. Malcom, Ph.D. ..... Dean of College Relations
Timothy R. McDonald, Ed.D. ..... Executive Director for Development
Emerson A. Cooper, Ph.D. ..... Special Assistant to the President
Theresa Allen, M.A.T. ..... Director of Student Activities
Ornan A. Bailey, M.A. ..... Asst. V.P. for Business Services and Operations
Naomi Barton, B.A. ..... Assoc. Resident Director of Wade Hall
George Bartholomew, B.S. ..... Director of Career Services and International Student Affairs
Compton Brathwaite, B.S. ..... Director of Credit and Collections
Sabrina Cotton, B.B.A., C.P.A. ..... *Interim* Chief Accountant
Sherman H. Cox, M.Div. ..... Associate in Development
Gino D'Andrade, B.S. ..... Director of Security
Minneola Dixon, M.L.S. ..... Archives Librarian
Anthony Donatto, M.A. ..... Resident Director of Peterson Hall
Robert Edwards, M.Div. ..... Director of Enrollment Management
Alma Foggo-York, M.P.H. ..... Associate Resident Director of Carter Hall
G. Paul Foster, B.S. ..... *Interim* Asst. V.P. for Financial Affairs/Controller
Sylvia A. Germany, B.S. ..... Director of Employee Benefits and Relations
Theodore Gunn, M.S. ..... Dean of Men
Alberta Holmon, M.S.L. ..... Reference Librarian
Morris Iheanacho, M.S.L. ..... Catalog Librarian
Shirley Iheanacho, B.S. ..... Administrative Secretary to President
Marcia Keller, M.A.S. ..... Director of Adult and Continuing Education/LEAP
Jannith Lewis, Ph.D. ..... Director of Library Services
Savonia McClellan, R.N. ..... Director of Health Services
Anthony Medley, M.Div. ..... Chaplain
Joan Mierez, B.S. ..... Resident Director of Carter Hall
Kelvin Mills, B.S. ..... Director of Food Services
Pattie Miller, B.A. ..... Dean of Women
Hattie D. Mims, B.S. ..... Director of Title III
Philip Nixon, B.S. ..... Associate Resident Director of Edwards Hall
James Payne, B.A. ..... Associate Resident Director of Peterson Hall
Juliaette Phillips, M.S.W. ..... Asst. V.P. for Academic Affairs and Director of Institutional Effectiveness
Tyrone Phillips, B.A. ..... Director of Literature Evangelism Training Center
Fred A. Pullins, M.Ed. ..... Director of Alumni Relations
Geraldine Pullins, B.S. ..... Director of Computer Center
Beverly Robinson, B.S. ..... Director of Trust Services and Planned Giving
Shirley P. Scott, B.S. ..... Director of Records
Ruth Swan, M.S.L. ..... Media Librarian
Claude Thomas, Jr., M.A. ..... Asst. V.P. for Student Services and Director of Counseling and Testing
Jocelyn Thomas, B.S.N. ..... Director of Work Education
Mark Washington, B.S. ..... Director of Financial Aid
Linda Webb, M.S. ..... Director of Freshman Studies Program and Center for Academic Advancement
Arlene Wimbley, B.S. ..... Coordinator of Institutional Effectiveness
Rose M. Yates-Lashley, Ph.D. ..... Director of Grants and Contracts

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A.C. McClure

Vice Chairs:

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William A. Murrain
Joseph W. McCoy

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Theodore Jones
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Norman K. Miles
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Carlyle C. Simmons
Ward D. Sumpter
Max Trevino

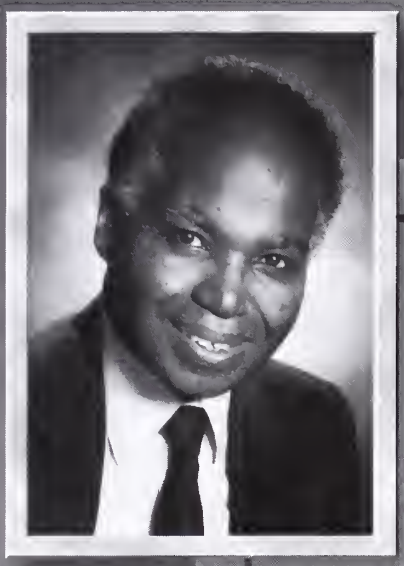
Centennial

— Events Calendar —

NOVEMBER		— 1995 —		
10	7:00 p.m.	Opening Ceremony	O.C. Church	
11	11:00 a.m.	Worship	O.C. Church	C.E. Bradford
	8:00 p.m.	Concert	VBCC	Shirley Verrett
DECEMBER				
2	4:00 p.m.	AIDS Education	Moseley Complex	L. Redcross
9	4:00 p.m.	Messiah	O.C. Church	Music Dept.
JANUARY				
		— 1996 —		
15	8:00 p.m.	Lyceum	Moran Hall	J. Lucas
FEBRUARY				
9	7:00 p.m.	Lecture	O.C. Church	D.W. Baker
10	4:00 p.m.	O.C. History Book	O.C. Church	M.A. Warren
11	5:00 p.m.	Festival of Sprituals	O.C. Church	HBCU Choirs
MARCH				
2	7:30 p.m.	Fashions	Wade Hall	Katie's Kloset
5	8:00 p.m.	Lyceum	Moran Hall	M. Thompson
9	9:00 a.m.	Family Day	O.C. Church	Social Work Dept.
	5:00 p.m.	Concert	O.C. Church	W. Phipps
12	7:00 a.m.	C. of C. Breakfast	VBC	O.C., Host
21	8:00 p.m.	Concert	Ashby	S.A.U. Band
APRIL				
4	6:00 p.m.	Banquet	VBC	W. Gray, III
5	7:00 p.m.	Homecoming	VBC	B. Black
6	11:00 a.m.	Homecoming	VBC	W. Pearson
7	2:00 p.m.	Historic Marker	Adventist Blvd.	M. Dixon
27	8:00 p.m.	Commencement	VBC	J.R. Lewis
MAY — AUGUST		Centennial Promotional Initiatives		C-5

SEPTEMBER				
26	8:00 p.m.	Lyceum	Moran Hall	Janice Chandler
OCTOBER				
3	6:30 p.m.	Reception	Wade Hall	UNCF Board
4	10:00 a.m.	Lecture	O.C. Church	Colin Powell
5	4:00 p.m.	Lyceum	O.C. Church	Music Graduates
24	8:00 p.m.	Lyceum	O.C. Church	Mae Jemison
NOVEMBER				
10	10:00 a.m.	Community Day/Campus Open House		
	7:00 p.m.	President Reaves' Farewell at the Huntsville Marriott		
11	4:00 p.m.	Concert	Madison Mall	Aeolians
12	8:00 p.m.	Lecture	Ashby	B. Holloway
13	7:30 p.m.	Prayer Service	O.C. Church	L. Pollard
14	3:00 p.m.	Centennial Games	Campus	P.E. Dept.
15	7:00 p.m.	Musical	O.C. Church	Music Dept.
16	11:00 a.m.	Farewell Sermon	O.C. Church	B.F. Reaves
16	6:00 p.m.	Closing Ceremony	O.C. Church	
		O.C. Mass Choir and the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Lloyd Mallory, Soloist; Taavo Virkhaus, Conductor		
16	8:00 p.m.	Campus Birthday Celebration/Fireworks		

"Preserving the Past,
Possessing the Present,
Positioning for the Future"



The Author . . .

Roy E. Malcolm did his undergraduate studies in Canada at Kingsway College and Waterloo University in Ontario, and Canadian University College in Alberta. The master's was obtained at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and the doctorate at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

Before accepting the call in 1968 to join the Oakwood College administration, Dr. Malcolm had successfully advanced the Bermuda Institute from an elementary school to a twelve-grade academy during his five years there as principal.

Malcolm's tenure at Oakwood represents an era of distinctive service in numerous administrative positions including: registrar, dean of admissions, director of registration and summer school, grand marshal, commencement coordinator, academic vice president, dean of college relations, Aeolians' manager, and editor/director of the Oakwood College Publishing Association.

He was also editor of the *Oakwood Magazine* which he guided from its infancy to a first-class national and international collegiate journal. In addition, he has designed, developed, and edited numerous other institutional publications.

Holding the rank of professor, Dr. Malcolm has taught classes in the departments of psychology and religion during the past 25 years. He is also an adjunct professor of psychology at Alabama A & M University.

Dr. Malcolm coordinated the memorable 1996 Oakwood Centennial Celebration as well as the unforgettable 1997 presidential inauguration of Dr. Delbert W. Baker.

He and his wife, the former Edrene DeShield, M.Ed., of Warwick, Bermuda, are the parents of Chanel, Royce, Charene, Peter, and Charea.

Centennial

One hundred years of excellence in educational leadership climaxed with a series of spectacular events throughout 1996, and Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama was both the subject and center of attraction.

Presentations and performances by personalities of national and international acclaim, strong showing of community support for campus initiatives, and the return of 30,000 alumni and friends for the Oakwood Centennial Homecoming, answered all questions about institutional recognition and community visibility. Some prominent citizens and influential leaders expressed heartfelt sentiments viz:

"Oakwood College has stood as an outstanding, unique institution of higher education for the past century and will endeavor to continue that tradition."

Fob James, Jr.
Governor

"I am impressed by the fire in the eyes of the students, the enthusiasm, commitment, dedication and the goodness that came pouring out as a result of the nurturing environment you have here with God, and that touched me deeply."

General Colin Powell
Retired Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

"Oakwood has much to celebrate during its Centennial year. Enrollment is higher than ever, graduates are achieving success. . ., the campus is beautiful, and its atmosphere is inviting."

Howell Heflin,
U.S. Senator

"For a century now, the College has enriched lives throughout the country and I commend you on this noble achievement."

Spencer T. Bachus, III
U.S. Congress

Centennial: *Highlights of the Celebration* tells the whole story.